Indon terror suspect pleads guilty

STORY ON PAGE A3

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INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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House to probe Manila Hotel debt

By Juliet L. Javellana

"THE ISSUE here is what happened to the loan even after Don Emilio Yap took over the Manila Hotel," House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said.

To try to resolve the issue, the government corporate counsel and officials of the Government Service and

HOUSE/A20

Jancom contract rebidding sought

Garbage firm prepared to downscale project

By Carlito Pablo, Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet L. Javellana

UNLESS compelled by the courts, President Macapagal-Arroyo will stick to her decision not to sign the controversial $350-million garbage incineration agreement between the government and Jancom Environmental Corp., acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable yesterday said.

In the House of Representatives, the chair of the ecology committee called for a rebidding of the contract to put up incinerators that Jancom won in 1997 after Ms Macapagal announced on Wednesday that she would not sign the "flawed contract."

But Jancom expressed confidence that the President would respect the Supreme Court decision declaring the contract legal and approve the contract once she was fully convinced that the project offered the best permanent solution to the garbage problem.

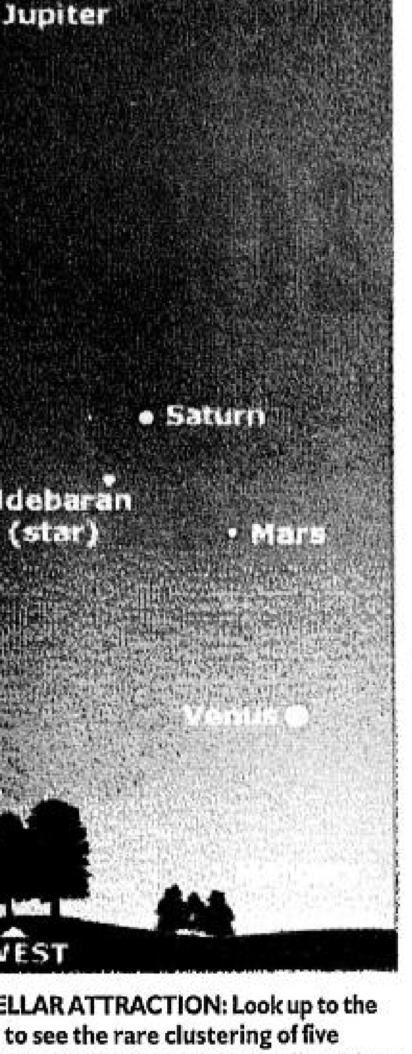
Jancom is prepared to set up the sanitary landfill facility and the three materials recovery and recycling facilities the moment the President gives the go signal to implement these two major components of its project, according to Jancom chair Leonides Gonzalez.

In a statement, Gonzalez said Jancom had accepted the proposal of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to downscale its project to a sanitary landfill in deference to strong opposition to the setting up of an incinerator.

"What we will set up will still be an integrated waste management system, a much upgraded prototype of the landfill facility in Hong Kong, which is being managed by Vivendi, our principal partner," he said.

Afable said the President "has al-

JANCOM/A20



SKY & TELESCOPE

STELLAR ATTRACTION: Look up to the sky to see the rare clustering of five planets thru April and May. Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, Venus and Mercury will be seen in the same part of the sky at same time.

Five planets line up in rare celestial array

LOS ANGELES—The five brightest planets visible from Earth have lined up in plain sight to form a spectacular celestial array that won't be seen again until 2040.

Through the next four weeks, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Saturn and Venus will appear tightly clustered in the Western sky. They will be visible to the naked eye in the evening.

"The five . . . planets are converging in one part of the sky and from now until mid-May you can see all five at one glance, which is pretty unusual," said John Mosley, an astronomer at the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles.

Each evening, the alignment will assume different shapes as the five planets take their orbital paths around the sun. The planets orbit in the same plane, like grooves in a phonograph record, only at different distances from the sun.

Similar bunchings occur every 20 years or so, though they are not always visible. The last time they were this visible

FIVE/A22

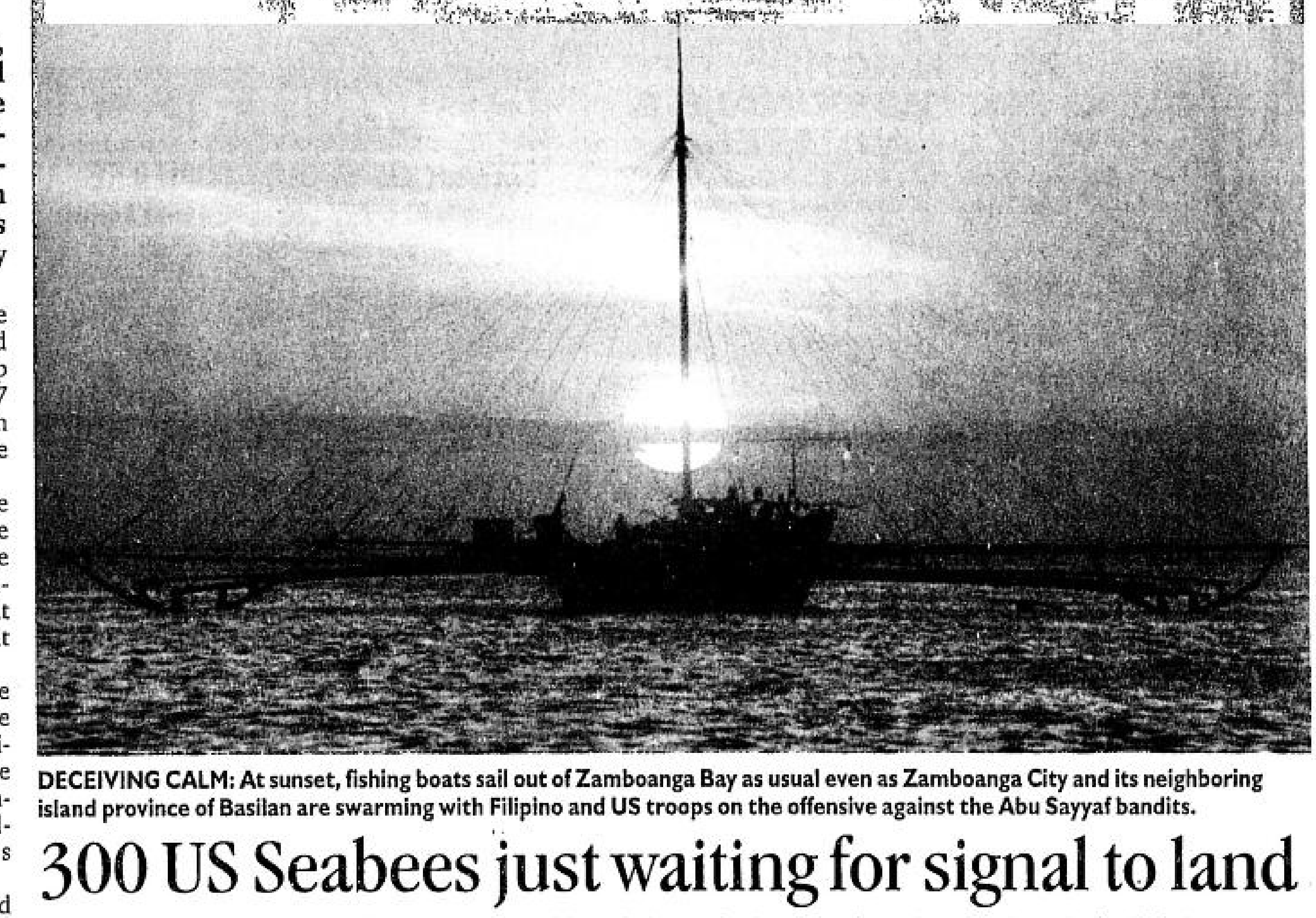
Breast milk of women living in Payatas 'unsafe'

CANCER-CAUSING substances are present in alarming levels in the breast milk of Filipino women living in the Payatas dump in Quezon City, according to a study cited by environmental and women's health advocates.

Greenpeace International and WomanHealth Philippines yesterday urged the Philippine government to do away with the incineration or open burning of waste, which, they said, were among the processes responsible for the production of cancer-causing dioxins.

The two groups presented the results of a study conducted in 2000 by a team of international scientists showing that

BREAST/A20



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

DECEIVING CALM: At sunset, fishing boats sail out of Zamboanga Bay as usual even as Zamboanga City and its neighboring island province of Basilan are swarming with Filipino and US troops on the offensive against the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

300 US Seabees just waiting for signal to land

AMERICAN sailors on a warship are waiting off the Philippine coast for approval to go ashore in a plan to expand counter-terrorism efforts against Abu Sayyaf bandits holding an American couple, senior US defense officials said Wednesday.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has approved the deployment of 300 Navy Seabees, engineers who will build an aircraft landing strip, pave roads and undertake other civil projects in support of US troops already on Basilan Island to train Filipino soldiers fighting the bandits, the officials said.

The bandits, who have been linked to al-Qaida terrorists, have been holding Martin and Gracia Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, since May 29, 2001.

The sailors on the USS Germantown left their base in Okinawa last week and are at sea and awaiting approval from the Philippine government to deploy to the island for an expected three-month stay.

The 300 Seabees have a Marine contingent with them for force protection. Their arrival will bring to more than 900 the number of Americans sent this year for Balikatan 02-1. Already in Mindanao are 600 Americans, including 160 special operations forces.

A second exercise, Balikatan 02-2, will start on Monday in Luzon where about 2,700 US forces will take part.

Roilo Golez, national security adviser, yesterday said officials from the Department of National Defense, Armed Forces of the Philippines and

300/A22

Erap marks 'very memorable' 65th birthday in jail

By Volt Contreras

"THIS is very memorable. I can't imagine I will be celebrating like this," with a wry smile, the celebrant told reporters yesterday.

By "like this," ousted President Joseph Estrada meant a birthday party while in detention on charges of plunder.

Though not exactly behind bars but ensconced in the presidential suite of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Estrada marks his first year in the air-conditioned prison on April 25.

But for now, he had enough reason to party on the eve of his 65th birthday.

About 200 friends from way back, relatives, political supporters and fans had dropped by to wish him well and to let him know they are on his side.

"Lord, come to his aide when it seems nobody is siding with him," Fr. Sonny Ramirez had said in his homily during the Mass concelebrated by 12 priests.

Complete with a choir and a pianist, the 3 p.m. Mass was held at the tree-shaded driveway outside Estrada's suite. After the Mass, an impromptu reunion of Estrada's power circle followed. A merienda was laid out on the buffet table: *lechon*, spring rolls, *pansit*, pork barbecue, *siopao*, *molo* soup, *pan de sal* and rice cakes.

Spotted among the guests were Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, former Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Ernesto Maceda and Francisco

ERAP/A20

UNPRECEDENTED: Forced entry of protesters right through the Camp Crame gate on Thursday is led by Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo (middle, in white shirt) who denounces the killing this year of 17 party members allegedly by the police and paramilitary groups. Anti-riot police allowed the Ocampo contingent to continue the rally inside the camp. *(Story on Page A5.)*

AFP
BERDUGO
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BAYAN MUNA
16th

DENNIS SABANGAN

US rights group slams Israeli army in report

JERUSALEM—A leading US rights group issued a damning report Thursday on the Israeli army's conduct, accusing soldiers of routinely forcing Palestinian civilians to open suspicious packages and search homes of suspected militants.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said witness testimony suggested that discipline among Israeli troops had unraveled severely over the past six months, and that some recent army violations on the West Bank amounted to war crimes.

The 24-page report concludes that the army regularly ignores international conventions by placing the life of civilians in jeopardy by forcing them—often at gunpoint—to help orchestrate house raids and inform on their neighbors.

The HRW report was based on inter-

US RIGHTS/A21

2 clueless Japanese tourists wander into Bethlehem war zone

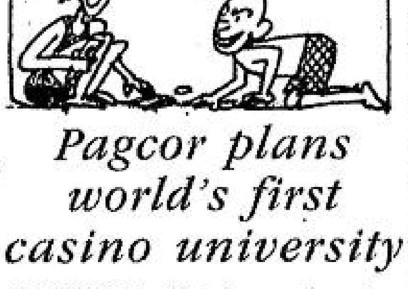
BETHLEHEM—And to think they live in a global village.

Two Japanese tourists eager to visit Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity were so engrossed in their guidebook on Wednesday that they did not notice they had wandered into a war zone.

It was only when news photographers in flak jackets and helmets spotted the oblivious couple and pointed out the bullet-pocked buildings and military hardware around them that they decided to call off their trip to one of Christianity's holiest sites.

"We have been on the road for the last six months and we did not watch television or read the newspapers," a bemused Yuji Makano told a photographer, who told him

2 CLUELESS/A22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Pagcor plans world's first casino university

GAMBLING officials are planning to set up what is believed to be the world's first casino university to promote the art of dealing cards and spinning a roulette wheel.

Pending approval from educational authorities, the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) will offer bachelor's degrees in casino

PAGCOR/A20

Second FRONT PAGE

JDV: I'm for Gloria in 2004

Speaker says he has no hidden agenda for Charter change

By Juliet L. Javellana

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday declared he has no hidden personal agenda in seeking constitutional amendments and that his presidential candidate in 2004 is President Macapagal-Arroyo.

De Venecia made this declaration as the House approved Wednesday night a measure calling for barangay assemblies on Sept. 14 to determine if the people want Charter amendments.

"Today, I wish to make it clear that I have no more ambition for higher political office. I am not running for President in 2004 and even if the constitutional amendments could be completed and ratified before 2004, I have absolutely no plan to seek the office of Prime Minister," De Venecia said in a press conference at his Dasmariñas Village, Makati City residence.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, who was present in the press conference with Western Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, said De Venecia's statement was important.

"It will help give impetus to the already snowballing move in Congress to amend the Constitution," Gonzalez said.

De Venecia said he called a press conference to "clear up, once and for all, questions and insinuations about my role in proposing Charter change."

In a message apparently directed to Malacañang, the Speaker said: "On many occasions, I have declared that my candidate for President in 2004 is none other than the President of the Republic, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who was my vice presidential running mate (in 1998)."

'Unconditional'

"My support for her is unconditional because she is highly qualified and is acually doing a good job," De Venecia added.

The Speaker laughed when asked to confirm reports that the Presidential Commission on Good Government was reviving his Landoil case as Malacañang's move to stop him from pursuing Charter change.

"That is one of the speculations but in fairness to the President, I don't think she's (part of it)," De Venecia said.

De Venecia held a joint press conference with Gonzalez and Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments.

The three leaders said the "political breakthrough" achieved by the House was the emerging consensus in and out of Congress to amend the Constitution, and that the specific amendments and mode of change are only details to follow.

De Venecia acknowledged what Gonzalez had said earlier to the INQUIRER that the Speaker would have the edge as Prime Minister should the country shift to a parliamentary government by 2010.

Gonzalez said this is because the head of the party or coalition that will control the majority automatically becomes the Prime Minister.

De Venecia is national chair of the ruling Lakas-NUCD-UMDP-Kampi, of which the President is titular head and former President Fidel Ramos is chair emeritus.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco was reported to have said Charter change was a ploy to make De Venecia premier but Cuenco said he was misquoted.

2004 and beyond

When a reporter asked if De Venecia's promise not to run for President, VP or PM applies to 2010 too, the Speaker said: "I am speaking for 2004 and beyond."

"I have my limitations. I'm not overly ambitious I already ran for President but we did not succeed. The people gave it to (Joseph) Erap Estrada so I respect the will of the people."

But he added: "When the time comes, only the Lord will determine our destiny. But since I am speaking for myself now, I repeat that I'm not running for President, Vice President or Prime Minister."

He said he longs for no office beyond the Speakership, which he has held for three terms.

"All I want in my public career is to be a good Speaker. This is the legacy I want to leave to our people and my children," said the congressman from Pangasinan.

But De Venecia affirmed his espousal of Charter change and said he would ask the President and leaders of all political parties to agree to have Charter change formally initiated this year.

"I believe we should now publicly declare for constitutional change and pass a law, this year or in 2003, calling for the election of delegates to a constitutional convention, simultaneously with the 2004 national elections. We can then begin to make the shift to the new system in 2010," De Venecia said.

De Venecia said personal ambition has nothing to do with his espousal of Charter change as early as 1988 when he was secretary general of the parliamentarians bloc in the House.

He said that when he became Speaker first in 1992, he reiterated his proposal to shift to a parliamentary and federal form of government with a unicameral legislature or a regionally elected Senate.

Two conditions

In this 12th Congress, De Venecia said he has two conditions for Charter change.

That the urgent economic and political reforms needed to propel development are firmly in place and that peace negotiations with the National Democratic Frong and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are either fully completed or irreversibly under way.

"The conditions remain unchanged," he said.

De Venecia said he would make a formal proposal to the President and to the various political parties taking part in the May 3-5 political summit which he organized.

Drilon: Cha-cha not on our agenda

By Rocky Nazareno

CHARTER change is not on the agenda of the Senate and it is unlikely that the senators will be able to push for amendments in the 1987 Constitution even with growing pressure from the House of Representatives.

This was disclosed by Senate President Franklin Drilon as he noted that in a recent caucus by the Senate majority, not one senator brought up amending the Constitution as an urgent matter.

"I don't see it in the calendar of the Senate at this point," Drilon said in a press briefing.

According to Drilon, most of the senators were "cold" to the idea of amending the Constitution now.

"It is not opportune for us to reopen the whole Constitution for a review," Drilon said.

But Drilon did say that while "there may be some provisions (in the Constitution) that can stand improvement, this can be done by a piecemeal amendment rather than reopening the whole Constitution through a constitutional convention or constituting Congress as a constituent assembly."

Drilon only reiterated his original proposal to amend the Constitution through the normal process of passing laws.

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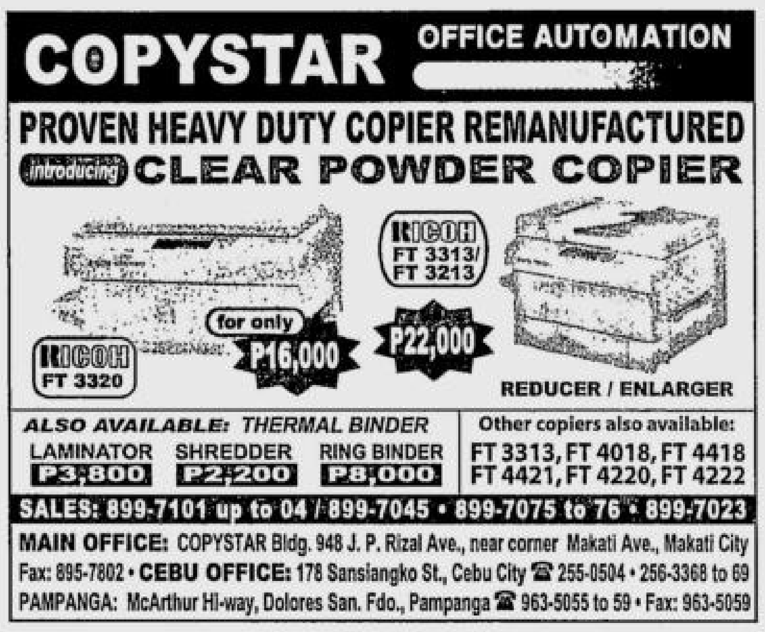

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Indon pleads guilty, gets 12 years

By Michael Lim Ubac

SELF-CONFESSED terrorist, Indonesian Fathur al-Ghozi, was sentenced yesterday to 12 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to illegal possession of explosives charges.

Judge Marivic Trabajo Daray, acting presiding judge of General Santos City Regional Trial Court Branch 35, convicted al-Ghozi after he owned up to the crime during his arraignment yesterday.

In a two-page decision, Daray found al-Ghozi "guilty beyond reasonable doubt" of violating section 3 of Republic Act 8294.

Daray then sentenced al-Ghozi to a penalty ranging from 10 years and one day to 12 years in prison. He was also ordered to pay a fine of P200,000.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the swift resolution of al-Ghozi's case was a victory for the government.

"The sentence imposed on al-Ghozi is an indication that we are fighting terrorism here," Perez said at a press conference in Manila.

Al-Ghozi's three co-accused, brothers Datu, Almoctar and Mohammad Malagat, who pleaded innocent, will have their cases continued to be heard by the court, Perez said.

Al-Ghozi voluntarily made the plea of guilty to escape a heavier sentence, according to one of his lawyers Confesor B. Sansano.

"He thought it best to plead guilty," said Sansano of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Free Legal Assistance Group. Otherwise, the maximum penalty for explosives possession is 20 years, he said. Al-Ghozi's other lawyer is Wirawan Adnan.

The judgment against al-Ghozi "was read in an Indonesian language known to him." An Indonesian Embassy official was present during the arraignment, and he acted as interpreter for al-Ghozi, said Perez.

Al-Ghozi is set to be brought to the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City today.

The Indonesian was convicted for possession of 50 boxes of explosives weighing one ton, which was dug up in Purok Maguindanao, Labangal, General Santos City on Jan. 17.

Police also found six rolls of detonating cord, three boxes of blasting caps and 17 assault rifles along with the explosives.

Aside from illegal possession of explosives, al-Ghozi and his three co-accused also faced illegal possession of firearms charges.

Perez said the prosecution would ask the court to drop the illegal possession of firearms charge against al-Ghozi. "His voluntary admission (was only for) illegal possession of explosives, not illegal possession of firearms," said Perez. "He said the guns were not his."

Al-Ghozi, who is believed to have links to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, earlier admitted to authorities he helped fund the series of bombings in Metro Manila on Dec. 30, 2000 that killed 22 persons.

Fate of 2 other Indons uncertain

TWO of the three Indonesians arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last March on suspicion of being terrorists were released on Thursday, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda said in Jakarta yesterday.

Agence France Presse quoted Wirayuda as telling a press conference: "Today, Tamsil Linrung and Jammal Balfas were released by the Philippine government. I don't know about the other one." He did not elaborate.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, however, denied the two Indonesians had been released.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Domingo said the Indonesians could not be released as they face illegal possession of explosives charges before local courts.

Linrung, Balfas and Agus Dwikarna were arrested at the airport on March 13 after police said they found bomb-making materials in their bags as they were about to fly out to Bangkok.

Linrung, however, said he saw police plant the materials and claimed he was being framed to discredit Indonesian presidential hopeful Amien Rais, whose National Mandate Party (PAN) Linrung had served as treasurer.

"Obviously, the reports are false," Domingo said.

She said only the dismissal or resolution of the case would earn the Indonesians their freedom. But deportation awaits them as they also face charges of participating in moves to unseat the government, Domingo said. ***Armand N. Nocum, with an AFP report***

Javier-Victoria, 69

MRS. Aquilina Javier-Victoria, retired school instructor of the Bulacan State University and former teacher at the Marcelo H. del Pilar High School, both in Malolos, Bulacan, died at the age of 69 on April 13 at the Liverpool Health Service Hospital in Liverpool, Australia. Mrs. Victoria expired after being stricken ill during a short visit to Australia with her husband, Lose U. Victoria and daughter Flormina J. Victoria.

Her remains were brought back to Manila Wednesday night and will lie at the historic Barasoain Church. Interment is on Tuesday, April 23 at the St. Vincent Memorial Park in Malolos.

Mrs. Victoria is the sister of broadcast executive Joe B. Javier, vice president for News and Public Affairs of ABC-5 and POEA Employment Branch Director Nick B. Javier.

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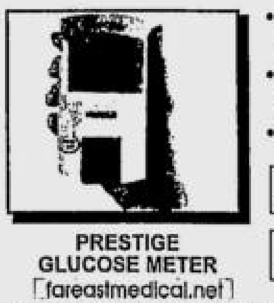

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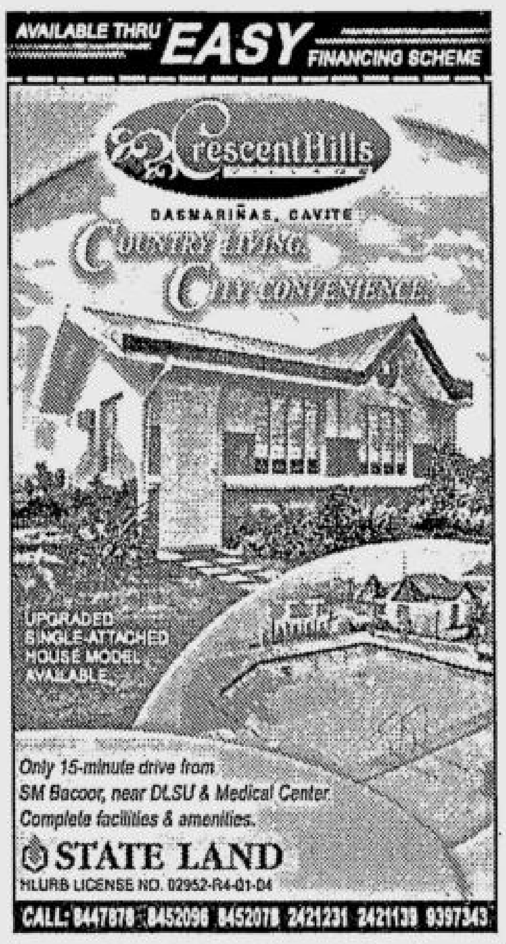

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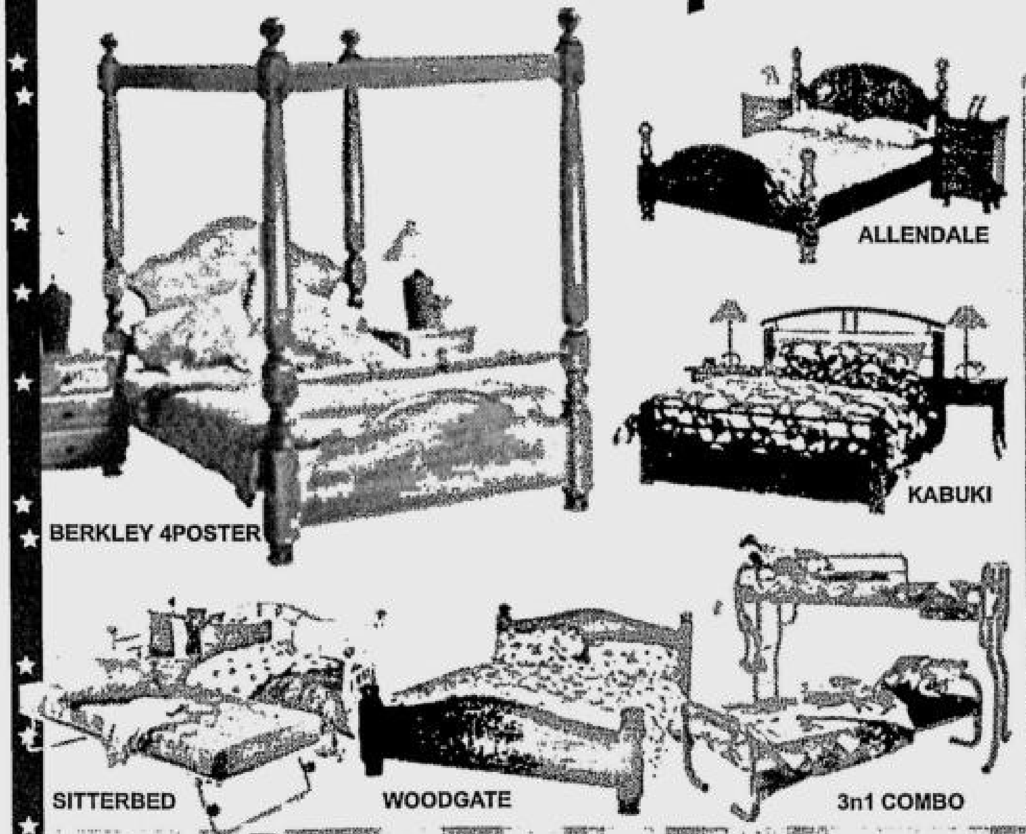

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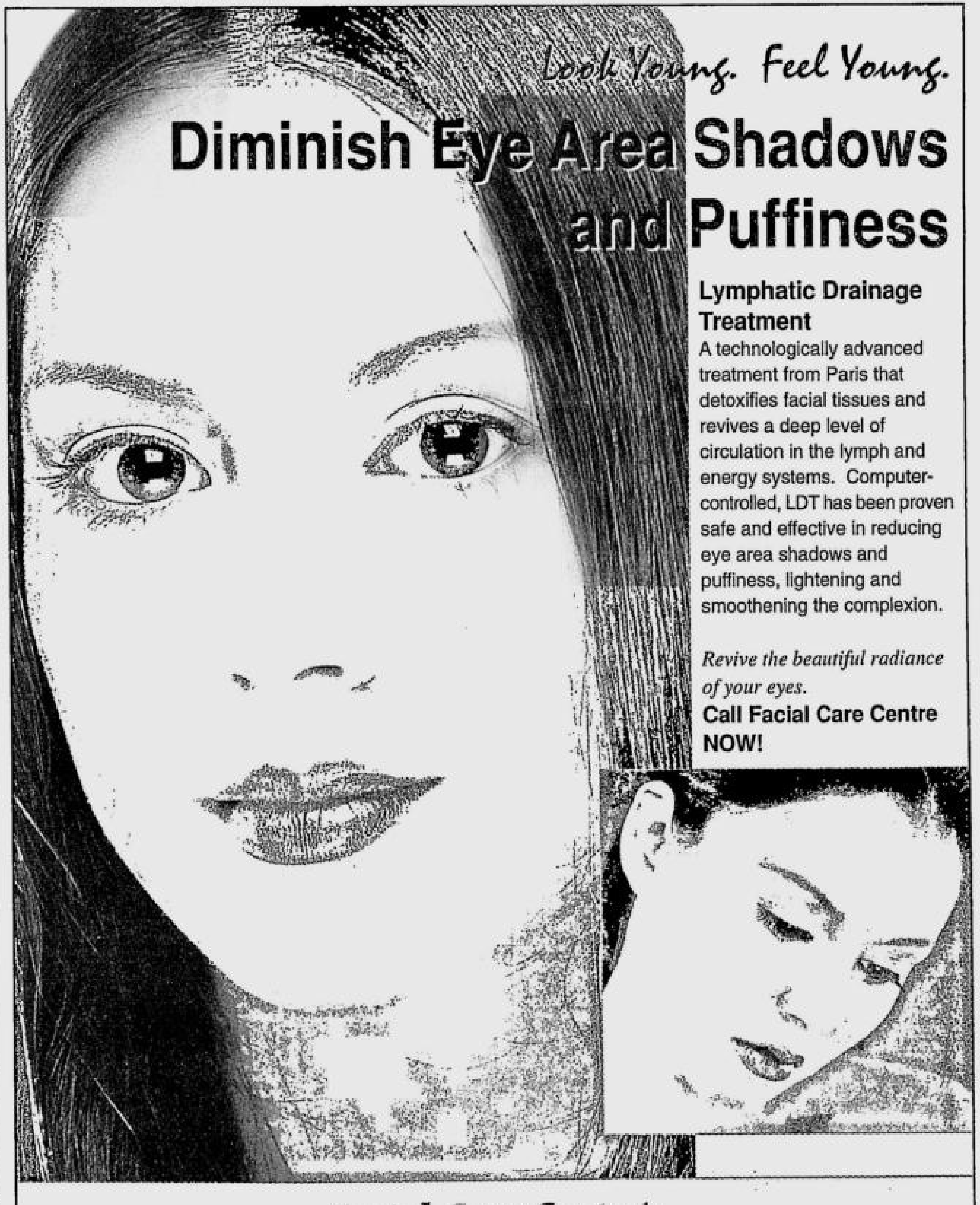

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'DISHONEST ADVERTISING'

Condom ad draws flak from pro-life groups

By Armand N. Nocum

CATHOLIC and pro-life groups have filed a complaint against the Philippine Daily Inquirer for alleged violation of the Code of Ethics for Advertising, when the paper published an ad from the "pro-abortion" group Catholics for Free Choice (CFFC).

In a complaint before the Advertising Board of the Philippines (ABP), the pro-life groups said the ad constituted "dishonest advertising" and "open and direct disparagement, disrespect and profanity against religion, religious belief and religious authority."

The complainants asked the ABP to impose "full sanctions" against the "respondent entities of media"—including the advertising firm that drew up the ad—for breach of advertising rules.

The US-based CFFC's ad, which was published in the PDI's Feb. 18 issue, said the Catholic bishops' ban on condom use contributes to the death of millions who contract AIDS.

It asked people to "join us in the Global Campaign to End the Bishops' Ban on Condoms."

The complainants, most of them groups affiliated with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said the ad disparaged bishops because it portrayed them as "uncaring, insensitive and contributing to the deaths of thousands due to AIDS."

They said this was contrary to the facts because the Church, especially the CBCP, has been actively calling for "nationwide attention to the catastrophic danger to health and life of AIDS/HIV."

But the groups admitted the Church does not subscribe to the "condom-distribution approach to the problem," which it found to be "simplistic and evasive" and leading to a "false sense of complacency."

Such a "safe sex" approach, they said, "seeks to escape the consequences of immoral behavior" and would only promote "promiscuity and sexual indifference."

The ad is also dishonest because the CFFC "is not a Roman Catholic" group, the complainants said.

They said the group "has been disowned by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) of the United States."

The Catholic groups accused the CFFC of being "an arm of the abortion lobby in the United States and throughout the world."

"Can a movement be called Catholic, that openly rejects and distorts Catholic teachings, especially respect and protection of defenseless unborn human life," the complainants said.

The signatories to the complaint included CBCP executive secretary Jo M. Imbong, Bishop Ramon Arguelles, Msgr. Cesar Salomon, Ma. Fenny Tatad of the Women in Asia for Development Enterprise, and the heads of the Save Our Family Movement Inc. and Pro-Life Philippines.

A spokesperson for the INQUIRER said yesterday the ABP has not informed the paper about the complaint.

The spokesman said that in deference to the ad board, the INQUIRER will withhold comment on the complaint until it receives its notice.

The INQUIRER will address all concerns raised by the complaining groups about the ad at the opportune time, the spokesperson said.

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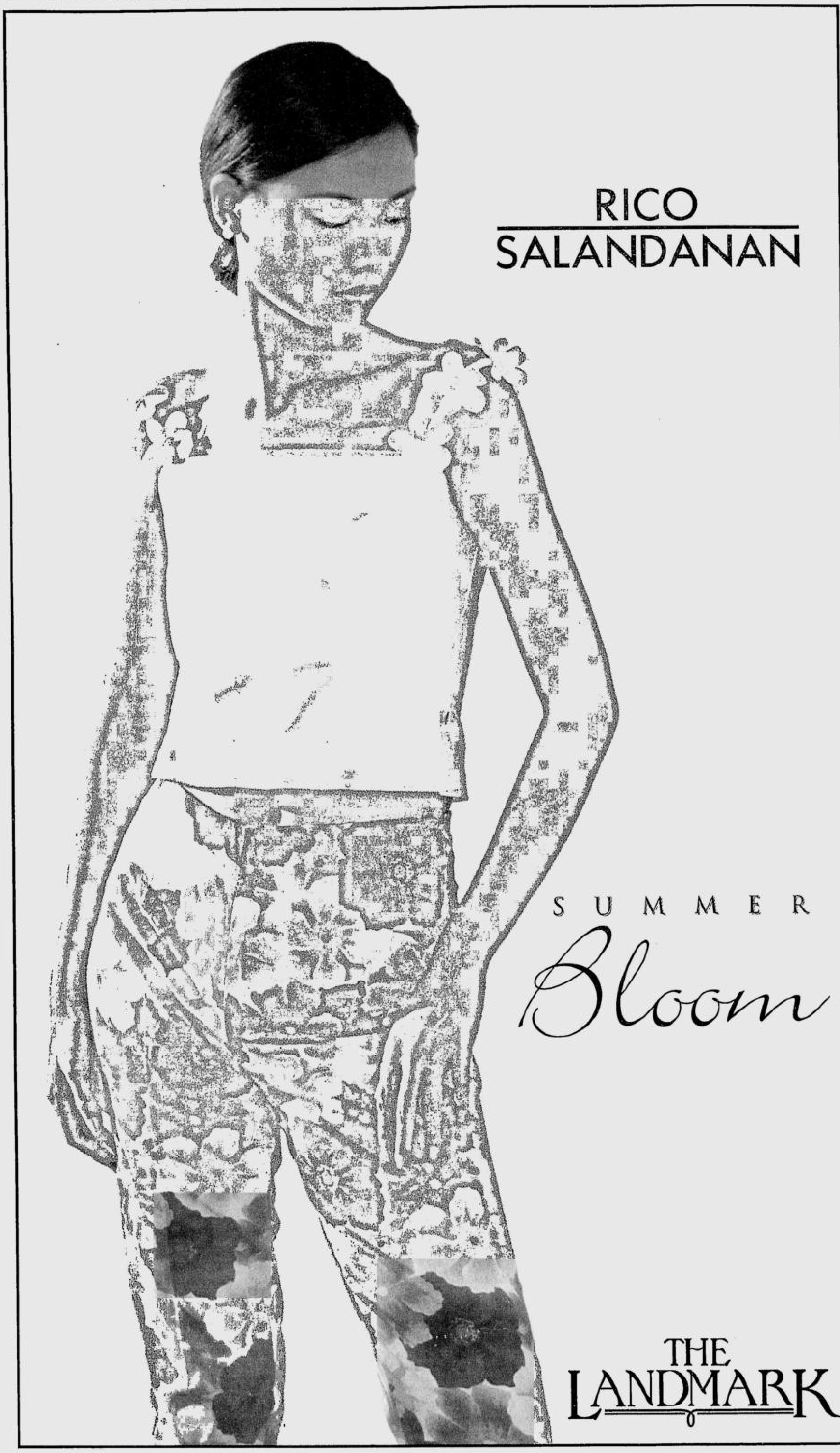

NGOs hit WB for $2-B slash in project funds

A CONSORTIUM of non-government organizations undertaking a $20-million, seven-year conservation project has demanded from the World Bank that it restore the $2million it unilaterally cut from its budget.

Karen Tañada, chair of the NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas Inc. (NIPA), said in the weekly Citio Fernandina Forum that the cut was made 18 months before the project's end in June 2002.

The WB manages the money given by many nations to the UN Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The program is called the Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Project (CPPAP) which is being conducted in 10 sites in the country.

Tañada said the slash "deprived local communities, indigenous peoples, upland farmers and their people's organizations of much-needed livelihood funds amounting to over P100 million." She described the cancellation as "premature, baseless and illegal."

The NIPA officer said "CPPAP is a biodiversity conservation project that puts people and local communities at the center of biodiversity conservation and protected area management. It is a world experiment in partnering government, civil society and the WB in project implementation."

Tañada accused the WB managers of misleading "GEF and the WB in Washington, D.C. that the NIPA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources agreed to the $2-million cancellation."

In fact, she explained, "DENR and NIPA objected to the cancellation because it had no basis under the Grant Agreement and neither was it sanctioned by the GEF." According to WB managers, the money was no longer needed by the CPPAP and must not be remitted to CPPAP.

She asked WB president James Wolfensohn "to investigate the acts of the WB managers and to look into other management issues."

Tañada said NIPA would seek redress for the oppressive actions of the bank.

She said the problem with the WB managers had been compounded by "differences in policies, priorities and standards of evaluation, micromanagement and their high-handed impositions."

She added that NIPA and the DENR are also seeking the imposition of sanctions against WB managers who have delayed fund releases and subjected the project to ad hoc reviews "which make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for NIPA and DENR to properly finish the project."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

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1st Reading: Acts 9:1-20
Gospel: Jn 6:52-59

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My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them. Just as the Father, who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the *bread which came from heaven;* unlike that of your ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Jesus spoke in this way in Capernaum when he taught them in the synagogue.

Commentary

Here the theological discourse reaches a climax. The teaching about the Eucharist is presented to would-be disciples of Christ without compromise, as the center of Christian faith. The Eucharist crowns and perfects the grace of baptism. It unites us intimately with Christ who has passed through death and lives with eternal life. Therefore, we too live with eternal life and can look forward to being raised with Christ when our turn comes. Through the Eucharist we live in Christ and Christ lives in us. We are drawn into the Trinitarian life of God. The life that the Father shares with Jesus is similarly shared with us, through Jesus. As disciples of Christ, the Eucharist is our lifeblood, our bond of identification with Christ.

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Bayan Muna protests repression

By Christine O. Avendaño

REPRESENTATIVES Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza of the party-list group Bayan Muna led a rally at Camps Aguinaldo and Crame, both in Quezon City, yesterday to protest the "systematic campaign of political repression" against their organization.

Ocampo said Bayan Muna lost 17 members and supporters in the past year to brutal slayings carried out mainly by police, military and paramilitary groups.

In a phone interview, Ocampo said the group has written Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Philippine National Police Director General Leonardo Mendoza to look not only into the killings but into other human rights violations committed against the group as well.

Ocampo delivered a stinging privileged speech at the House of Representatives the other day calling attention to the fact that the party-list group had become a "target of an alarming rate of killings, abductions and outright harassment."

Titled "Why are Bayan Muna Members being Killed?" Ocampo's speech informed his colleagues that the human rights group, Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, has documented 64 cases of human rights violations committed against Bayan Muna coordinators, members and supporters between Feb. 21, 2001 and April 8, 2002.

The cases involved killings, harassment, unjustified arrests and illegal detention and searches of Bayan Muna members and coordinators in Southern Tagalog, Eastern Visayas, Central Luzon, Central Visayas and the Bicol region.

In these cases, 17 persons were killed, including the latest victim, Benjaline "Beng" Hernandez, deputy secretary general of the Karapatan chapter in Davao.

Hernandez was slain allegedly in an encounter between the military and the New People's Army in Isabela on April 5.

In his speech, Ocampo, former spokesperson of the National Democratic Front, said Hernandez was in Cotabato conducting research on the peasant situation there and the impact of the peace process.

e-government deadline nears

THE GOVERNMENT may not be able to comply with the e-Commerce law that mandates government to do business online by June 2002.

Because of this, a congressman, a recent meeting of the Congressional Oversight Committee on the e-Commerce (COCeC) said non-complying agencies of the government should be penalized with loss or decrease in their budgets.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., main proponent of the e-commerce law, and Reps. Harry Angping and Rodolfo Plaza agreed to push for the implementation of the Act, even to the point of pressuring government departments to comply.

"We cannot tolerate the seeming *mañana* attitude of our government departments and agencies toward their legal obligations" Magsaysay said.

"How can we promote the country as an IT investment destination if our government is not serious in promoting the use of information and communications technology (ICT) for better public service?" he added.

"No compliance, no budget" was the threat aired by Plaza to government departments who do not deliver soon.

"In the US, real estate taxes can be paid online, why can't we do the same here?" Magsaysay said.

He added that a secure payment infrastructure is already in place with the private banks such as BPI, Equitable, HSBC and Union Bank.

"What's stopping our departments to replicate these private sector initiatives?" he said.

e-government, he said, is aimed at changing the way people do business with the government. It is easy to promote the benefits of an IT-enabled government to the public as "it can streamline processes and provide real services to the people who have the impression that government has not responded to their immediate needs and complaints."

"More importantly, e-government can help lessen corrupt practices prevalent in all facets of government," Magsaysay said.

New press sec gets appointment

By Carlito Pablo

BARELY a week after Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao went on leave, President Macapagal-Arroyo formally appointed Silvestre Afable, head of the Presidential Management Staff, as her acting press secretary.

Afable said he received his appointment papers only yesterday, or three days after Tiglao left for Japan last Monday to assume a six-month visiting professor fellowship at the Kyoto University.

The appointment of Afable, although in an acting capacity, is expected to fuel speculations that Tiglao, also the spokesperson of President Macapagal, is no longer coming back to assume his two posts.

"It's because I'm acting on behalf of Secretary Tiglao," Afable said when asked why there was a need for him to be formally appointed by the President.

Afable also told reporters that it would be enough for him to be referred to as Acting Press Secretary without need to mention that he also heads the PMS in concurrent capacity.

While Afable is still learning the ropes, another member of President Macapagal's media machinery is reportedly scouting for an office inside Malacañang, apparently to lend a hand to the acting press boss.

Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco, who was appointed recently as presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, is said to be moving in somewhere at the Kalayaan Hall.

Asked whether Limcaoco will be assisting him in regular press briefings at the Palace, Afable said: "I welcome working with him."

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Can't be West Nile, doc says of Ormoc virus

By Armand N. Nocum

NONE of the 12 children belonging to the prominent Larrazabal clan of Ormoc—who have been stricken by a suspected rare disease—have been abroad recently and neither does the family own imported horses.

The statement was made by the country's top epidemiologist, Dr. Consortia Lim Quizon, to refute early suspicions the children had been afflicted with the rare West Nile Fever Infection (WNFI).

"How could the dreaded West Nile virus have reached local shores?" asked Dr. Quizon, director of the National Epidemiological Center, who said the virus has been detected in other countries but not the Philippines.

"*Mukhang hindi yon* (It doesn't look like it)," Quizon told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "How could the virus have reached our shores without a carrier?"

First detected in 1939, the virus has hit the US, Europe and the Middle East but there has been no recorded case of it in the country, Quizon said.

She said health officials who talked to the Larrazabal family learned that none of the 12 children had been abroad lately, where they might have contracted the disease.

"Neither do they have imported horses. The ones they have are of an imported breed, but were bred locally," she said. "There is just no explanation for how the West Nile virus got here."

Besides, she said, the symptoms displayed by the Larrazabal children and the circumstances surrounding their illness were "not consistent" with WNFI.

For one, she said, their fever could have been "caused by another viral infection, even dengue."

With WNFI, she said, there is usually a "colony" of culex mosquitoes detected in the area of infection and there was none in this case.

Still, she said, she would be bringing spinal fluid and blood samples from one of the Larrazabal children who has been rendered clinically dead by the illness to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia.

She said blood samples from the children have also been sent to Japan and Australia, but the tests will take time since the virus will have to be cultured first, something that will take about a week.

The children, scions of the landowning Larrazabal clan who live in the family compound, were stricken by the unknown disease last week, one day after some dogs and ducks that they had cared for were found dead under mysterious circumstances.

The children, ranging in age from three to 16, came down with high fever and sore eyes. Some of them have been declared out of danger, while four remain seriously ill, with one, Marcos Larrazabal II, in a coma.

Suspect in bomb scare was MILF peace panel member

COTABATO CITY—The self-proclaimed spokesperson of the Indigenous Peoples' Federal Army (IPFA), the group claiming to be behind the recent spate of bomb scares in Metro Manila and Mindanao, was a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace panel.

But Rogelio Adamat, also known as Fedrev and Roger, was never an organic member of the Muslim separatist group, according to Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief.

Jaafar said Adamat, a Tiruray from Upi, Maguindanao, was endorsed by tribal leaders to be their representative to the MILF-GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) peace talks during the term of former President Joseph Estrada.

Jaafar said Adamat's endorsement was considered because the MILF has acknowledged that the lumads are part of the Bangsamoro race.

"That's how we came to know Roger Adamat," Jaafar told Radio dxMY here.

He said Adamat's membership in the MILF technical committee was short-lived after Estrada launched an "all-out war" against the MILF.

Other non-organic MILF members who sat with Adamat in the defunct peace panel were Datu Ignacio Iqling, a tribal leader from Davao del Sur, and former Iligan City vice mayor Allan Flores, Jaafar said. "Flores was representing the Christians in Mindanao," he added.

National Bureau of Investigation Director for Central Mindanao Silvino Cinches said authorities are tapping Adamat's relatives who are in government to help find him.

"They could help the police and NBI by providing information on the whereabouts of Adamat, so we can hear his side on the bomb scares," Cinches said.

But Ariel de Asis of the human rights group Bayan Muna said there was no evidence to directly link Adamat to the bomb scares in Metro Manila and Mindanao.

"Right now, we have no proof that Roger was involved in the bomb threats," De Asis said.

Ronald Adamat, an aide to presidential assistant Jesus Dureza, said Roger was a cousin and not his brother, contrary to earlier reports.

Ronald said he had no knowledge of his cousin's whereabouts.

"Although I consider his efforts toward federalism noble, I am absolutely against the way that aspiration is being carried out," Ronald Adamat said.

The IPFA has claimed the bomb scares were part of its drive to force the government to declare a federal state in Mindanao.

Roger, whom Ronald described as a principled man, reportedly once served as an official of the Maguindanao tourism office and was involved in several protest actions during the term of former President Fidel Ramos.

He also figured in a hostage-taking incident in Upi, Maguindanao, Ronald said, although no details were available.

Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie S. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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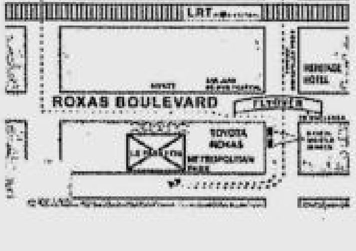

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A thanksgiving mass for the new lawyers shall be celebrated by the Recollect Fathers on Monday, April 29, 2002 at 5:00 p.m.. A testimonial dinner shall immediately follow at the law library.

All Alumni of the SSC-R Institute of Law are invited to attend The 1st General Assembly on 27 April 2002 at 3:00 P.M. For Confirmation Pls call 7348931 OR 7345377 and look for Bel.

Finance chief eyes tax on text

By Clarissa S. Batino

SEEKING to cash in on the growing mobile messaging market, the Department of Finance is considering imposing a tax on text messages to increase revenue collection.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the DOF was now studying if it could tax text messages that reach 150 million daily.

"It is easy to tax text messages so we are thinking about it," he said.

Imposing a 10-percent tax on text messages would give the government revenues of P15 million daily or P5.6 billion annually.

Consumers will have to shell out an additional 10 centavos for each text message sent on the likely scenario that phone companies would pass the tax burden to their customers.

A proposal to tax text messages was raised during a congressional hearing last year but it was met with stiff opposition from consumers.

Aware of the opposition from the country's 12 million mobile phone subscribers, Camacho stressed that the government has yet to study the move and there were no plans yet to push through with it.

Currently, the government collects a 10-percent value-added tax from mobile phone companies aside from minor taxes on overseas calls and other services.

Under the current setup, Camacho said the tax on text messaging service was already lumped with other services. He said the government could impose a separate tax on text messaging since the service was unbundled from other items like phone calls.

The government is hard-pressed to improve its revenue collection so it could reduce its budget deficit that is estimated to hit P130 billion this year from P147 billion in 2000.

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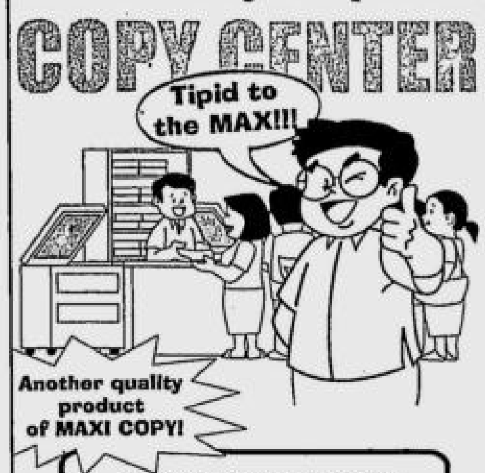
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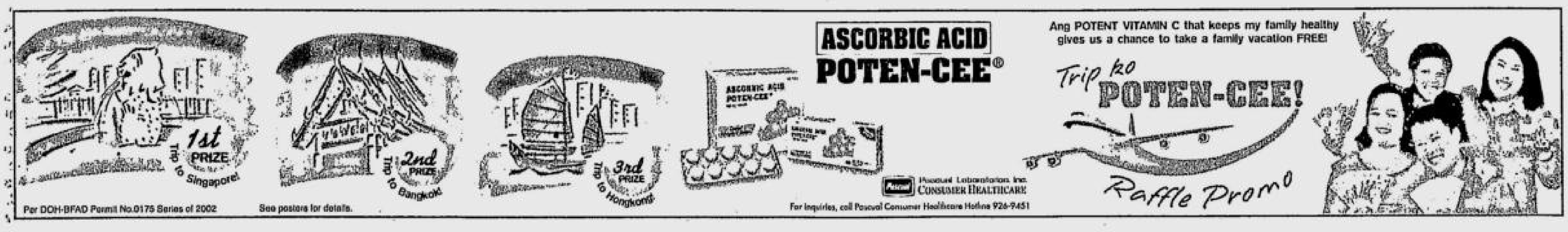
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OPINION

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A growing presence

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo says a proposal to extend the joint RP-US military exercises has yet to reach her office, but when it does, she will have to make the final decision.

The President, who made the statement Wednesday, was reacting to reports that Vice President and concurrent Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona would not sign any agreement extending Balikatan 02-01 or increasing the number of US troops in the country. These two proposals are bound to revive an old conflict between the country's top officials as to the wisdom and constitutionality of allowing US troops to take part in military activities aimed at freeing two American missionaries and a Filipino nurse and neutralizing the terrorist group holding them hostage, the Abu Sayyaf. Guingona initially opposed the Balikatan but shut up after Ms Macapagal went ahead and approved the exercise as the "chief architect of Philippine foreign policy." But regardless of what Guingona might think, there can be no doubt that this time Ms Macapagal will again assert her authority and insist in having her way. And when the time to make a decision comes, it is very easy to see what that will be.

Even as some Filipino generals and the President's spokesperson, Silvestre Afable, were admitting that talks were going on about the augmentation of US forces in the Philippines, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Adm. Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, were reported to have already signed an agreement calling for the dispatch of more than 300 additional US troops to Basilan. These additional forces will reportedly build bridges and other infrastructure and engage in civic activities. Villanueva would not have put his signature on the memorandum without first getting the green light from Malacañang.

Whoever will formally recommend to the President the extension of the Balikatan exercises will be preaching to the converted. Earlier this week, Ms Macapagal announced that she was all for it since it was what the people of Basilan wanted. "The residents themselves asked if the Americans could (undertake) what they have been longing for," she said.

Curiously, all this talk about US troop augmentation and the Balikatan's extension comes at a time when top military officials from both sides are talking as if the release of the hostages and indeed victory over the Abu Sayyaf were close at hand. Blair, who was in Basilan last Monday, declared that progress of the joint effort against the Abu Sayyaf "exceeded my expectations." He denied that the United States had any plans of making its military presence permanent and said US troops would leave as soon as the Abu Sayyaf was crushed.

But if the final defeat of the Abu Sayyaf is imminent, why are they talking about extending the military campaign that has been thinly disguised as training exercises? And why are the Americans fielding more troops?

There is nothing wrong with building needed infrastructure and indeed speeding up the development of Basilan. Everyone agrees that a military solution to the problem won't work—not for very long anyway. But if the objective is to root out the causes of discontent, banditry and violence, why should the task be assigned to military men? And why doesn't the US government just provide the funds and let Filipinos undertake the projects?

So much has changed since the Macapagal administration first welcomed America's help in fighting terrorism. The US troops are growing in number, their objectives are being transformed into long-term ones and the military exercises in Basilan are likely to be extended. Can the administration blame anyone for suspecting that the conditions are slowly being laid for a permanent US military presence in this country?

State of emergency

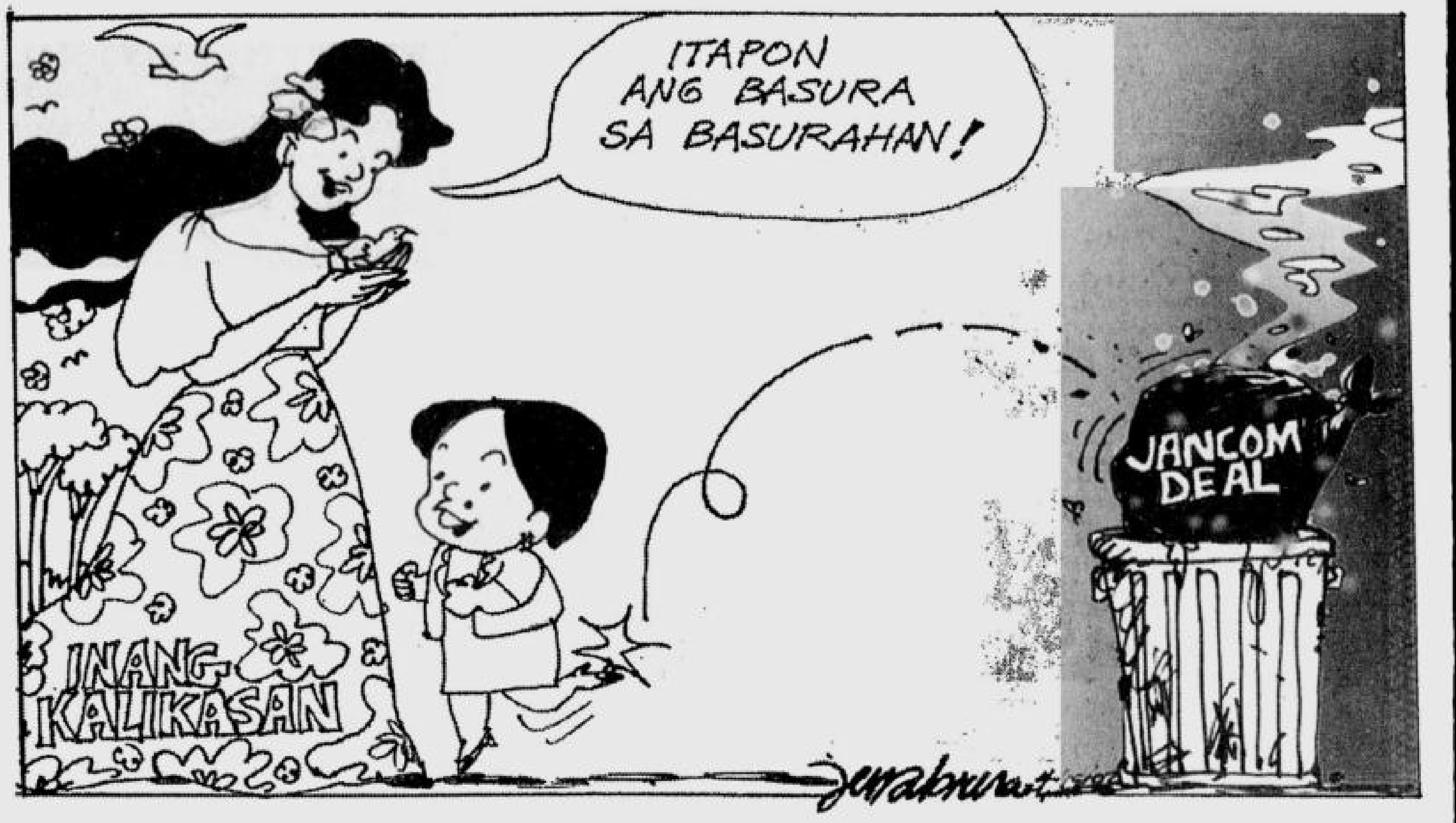
FOREIGN COMMENT

THE MOST recent scandals have demonstrated that the climate of political corruption is basically unchanged in a decade. Even if politics may seem like a green field on the surface, the same old roots are still thriving beneath the surface.

The problem is complex because the opposition cannot be as forthright as it should. The Liberal Democratic Party is snarled in big scandals and the opposition parties are discredited by petty ignominy. And the opposition is held back from going on the offensive just as it was in the 1955-era political order.

Even politicians who seemed capable of bringing about change leave the scene one after another. Isn't this a state of emergency? People need to remember that this is not a time to simply lament the poverty of politics from the sidelines.

Asahi Shimbun (Tokyo)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INANG KALIKASAN
JANCOM DEAL

Hail to the Chief for rejecting Jancom deal

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ALLELUIA! President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has finally made up her mind. She said she will not sign the "flawed" $350-million garbage disposal contract with Jancom, an Australian firm. That wasn't so hard to do, was it? That should end the controversy. Jancom won't have to continue throwing good money after bad in its costly public relations campaign to persuade the President to sign the contract.

And former President Estrada doesn't have to worry anymore to whom the 20 percent commission—earlier offered to him to approve the deal—will go. It's not going to anybody because the deal won't be approved. Jancom lost in that effort. All that money down the drain.

Erap had told this columnist in an interview last April 2 that he had been offered a 20 percent commission to approve the deal with Jancom which had earlier been bypassed by his predecessor, President Fidel Ramos. Erap also bypassed the contract in spite of the offer but he was afraid his successor, President Macapagal, will succumb to the temptation and sign it. Thank God, she did not.

It is not only the contract that is flawed but also the decision of the Supreme Court's Third Division. The division said the contract is legal, valid and perfected but needs the President's signature to take effect. If it needs one more signature, how can it be legal and perfected?

If the contract violates a valid law, like the Clean Air Act, how can it be legal? The Clean Air Act bans incinerators. Jancom will burn garbage in incinerators. How can that be legal?

The Court said that not all incinerators are created equal. There are low-tech ones and high-tech ones, implying that Jancom will use the high-tech ones. How did the justices know? What if Jancom doesn't use the high-tech incinerators, will that automatically make the contract illegal after the Supreme Court has already given its imprimatur?

Is it a fair contract? The tribunal doesn't say. The tipping fee has ballooned from the original $10 per ton of garbage to a whopping $59 per ton. Isn't this disadvantageous to the government? The tribunal doesn't say. The contract has undergone so many changes that the version signed is very different from the original. Is it still legal? The tribunal says it is. Anybody who has a common sense and is not a Supreme Court justice will say it is not.

After the contract was signed, the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act were passed which bans incinerators. In law, there is a thing called "supervening event"—an event that happens after a court decision has become final and executory but which event makes execution of the decision impossible. Are not the passage of the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act "supervening events" that make the Jancom contract unenforceable? The high court did not touch this.

The ownership of Jancom is doubtful. Two groups of people are fighting over it. If the contract is consummated, to whom should the government give it? Either way, the government will be sucked into a lawsuit and the contract itself will be frozen in the courts until the ownership is resolved. While this contract is in limbo in the courts—which can take many years, considering the slowness of our justice system—the government cannot give another contract to another company. Which means garbage will continue to pile up and pose a problem to the health of the people. Wouldn't it be better to resolve all these questions now? The Supreme Court is not concerned with that. It is concerned only with whether the contract is legal or not.

And the Supreme Court has the final word on any question of legality. But "final word" doesn't mean it is always right, or just, or moral. And the humans who give that "final word" are not perfect. Being human, they are subject to errors. This decision is one of them.

* * *

The contest for the NVM Gonzalez Award for the best published short story of the year is now open to all Filipino writers in English. To be eligible, short stories in English must be published within the period of Oct. 16, 2001 to Sept. 30, 2002. Deadline for submission of entries is Oct. 15, 2002.

Entries may be submitted by the authors themselves or by the editors of national magazines and university and college journals and magazines in which the short stories were published.

Entries must be submitted in six copies of the manuscript (typewritten, double-spaced), including one original published form, accompanied by the author's bio-data.

Send entries to NVM Awards c/o aklat@laru-an, 2/F FBR Arcade, 317 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108. For inquiries, call Tel. No. 435-4573 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

The award honors the late National Artist for Literature NVM Gonzalez's abiding love for the short story, and seeks to preserve and encourage excellence in this genre among Filipino writers.

* * *

The Philets Foundation, the association of alumni of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Sto. Tomas, will hold a reunion on May 25 at the Quezon City Sports Club on Rodriguez Avenue. All Philets alumni are encouraged to attend.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: It being Earth Day, subject of Monday's Kapihan sa Manila forum will be the environment, particularly how we are addressing deforestation and pollution in land, air and water.

Guests are Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and representatives from various environmental NGOs.

Games people play

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FIRST, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo justified the coming of US troops to Basilan as an extension of the Balikatan exercises because although those troops were going to a place where there was actual war, they would not be taking part in it, they would just be training their Filipino counterparts how to fight terrorists. Then she justified their stay well past the legal provisions of Balikatan as an extension of Balikatan because war games meant devising strategies to fight wars, and the best strategy to explore in Basilan was fighting war with civic work, such as by troops performing harelip operations on native kids.

Then she justified the coming of more US troops to various parts of the country as still being an extension of Balikatan because the law did not limit the number of games Filipino and American soldiers could play, so if they wanted to play some more, they were welcome to do so. Now she justifies the longer stay of the American troops in Basilan as still an extension of the Balikatan exercises because they are doing that part of the country a world of good, proof of it being that the residents of Basilan themselves want them to remain.

I will make this fearless forecast:

Weeks from now, President Macapagal will justify the docking of American ships in Dadiangas, or giving them long-term docking rights there, as still an extension of the Balikatan exercises because it would make it easier for American soldiers who participate in war games to move in and out of the country. Weeks after that, she will justify the coming of still more American troops to various parts of the country as still an extension of the Balikatan exercises because war games having taken the place of Japanese sex tours, American troops should be encouraged to come in droves to stimulate the economy. Still weeks after that, she will justify the building of R and R places in Mindanao as still an extension of the Balikatan exercises because soldiers, and particularly officers, who play hard at war deserve to rest easy in Camp John Hay-type facilities.

Weeks after that, she will justify the permanent stay of as many US troops as the United States wants as still an extension of the Balikatan exercises because that is pretty much what all this amounts to.

It should be clear by now, if it wasn't so before, that there is little connection, if any, between the Abu Sayyaf and renewed American military presence in these islands. It should be clear by now, if it wasn't so before, that those troops are here to stay, courtesy of a former vice president who once showed she did not deserve to become President and who now shows she does not deserve to remain one.

I found nothing funnier than the news the other day that US officials were debating among themselves whether to keep their troops longer in this country or not. This was during the visit of Adm. Dennis Blair. The image that came to mind was that of President William McKinley at the turn of the 20th century wringing his hands, or conscience, or soul, whichever he had, in the dark of night, debating with himself whether to annex the Philippines or not. To be or not to be, or in his case, to seize or not to seize. Which he of course decided in favor of seizing. But not before citing divine intervention: God appeared to him in a dream and told him it was manifest destiny. It was also a dirty job—a White Man's burden—but somebody had to do it.

Why shouldn't Basilan, or indeed Zamboanga, not want the American troops to be there? Or specifically Gov. Wahab Akbar and Mayor Clara Lobregat, who rule Basilan and Zamboanga like fiefdoms? Olongapo too, under Richard Gordon, wanted desperately to keep the US bases, and fought bitterly to keep them. If we had agreed that the US bases were doing Olongapo and Pampanga a world of good, proof of it was that their residents wanted them, we would still have the Subic naval and Clark air bases to this day. Unless, of course, Ms Macapagal means to say that the Senate erred in kicking them out in 1991.

Akbar in particular has never had things better. He has filed a libel charge against Fr. Cirilo Nacorda for implicating him with the Abu Sayyaf, but whether it's true or not, the Abu Sayyaf is clearly the best thing that has happened to him. For the strangest reason, no one has bothered to blame him for their proliferation. He is the governor there, for Christ's or Mohammed's, sake. Illegal gambling proliferates in Tarlac or Camarines Sur, and we immediately blame the governors there. Prostitution riots in Bulacan or Metro Manila, and we immediately blame the governor or mayor there. Rape and murder happen in Marikina and Davao, and we immediately blame the local officials there.

Not so Basilan. A kidnap-for-ransom gang thrives there, and, well, what we do is **reward** the governor there. Monumentally ironically, Akbar has not only not been taken to task, he has been given P800 million to build a circumferential road around his island. He has not been taken to task, he has been made the beneficiary of foreign aid to lift his constituents from abject poverty. Both of which are guaranteed to make him richer than a sultan overnight in kickbacks. Why in God's or Allah's name should he not want American troops in his island? Why in God's or Allah's name should he not want the Abu Sayyaf to terrorize people a little longer? Why in God's or Allah's name should he not want more war in his part of the world?

But what are we doing allowing him to get his way? We are investing in war, not peace. We are investing in iniquity, not justice. We are investing in madness, not reason. And we call it fighting terrorism.

But what games we play.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

The schizophrenic presidency

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AFTER DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada had debauched the presidency with bad governance and corruption, the highest office in the land is being debased from another front—with the assault staged by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "senior consultant for public relations," Dante Ang.

The attack is even more insidious because it comes from inside the Palace and takes the form of presenting the presidency as a commodity being "marketed" with public relations gimmickry. As far as I can remember, no president of the republic has ever been presented to the sovereign people as a merchandise in a *sari-sari* store. But by his own admission, Ang describes his job as a "marketing" function to dress up President Macapagal as a populist who identifies herself with the masses and the poor.

Ang has said that he is recasting the elitist image of the President to one with which the masses can identify. Ang's explanation is actually a shorthand for trying to usurp Estrada's spurious populism and to install President Macapagal as Estrada's successor to the title of champion of the masses.

The fatal flaw of Ang's description of his role as PR "adviser" is that it assumes that President Macapagal is perceived as an "elitist." He is wrong. From our own feedback, the President has been widely perceived as a competent, intelligent, hard-working President who has a clear policy direction, who manages the economy reasonably well and who has a sense of organization. This perception contrasts her starkly with that of Estrada.

The public has learned to accept Ms Macapagal as a doer who should be judged by her accomplishments rather than by her cosmetics, courtesy of Ang.

But this perception is blurring after Ang has sought to change her identity into one with a populist profile. Consequently, the President has an identity problem stemming from this repackaging by her gimmick-oriented adviser.

Most Filipino presidents, from Manuel Quezon to Fidel Ramos, have stamped their identity and style on the basis of their performance in office, not on the basis of artificial imagery or smoke-and-mirror trickery which is, in essence, what Ang is doing to Ms Macapagal. Ang is putting the real Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into a corset of gimmickry that blocks the emergence of her own style of leadership.

Ang, by trying to make Ms Macapagal a clone, first of Nora Aunor in the 1998 election, and now of Joseph Estrada, is presenting to the public a falsified profile of a leader of the masses whose heart bleeds for the poor. But the poor are not deceived.

The reinvented President Macapagal is a schizophrenic portrait of a leader. One day she is presented as a tough President, and the next day as a marshmallow shrinking from pressures from political adversaries or disgruntled political allies and opponents.

This aspect of her presidency labors the obvious just to gain sympathy.

Estrada, on his own initiative, sought out the role of speaking on behalf of the masses. He failed in this role because he did not deliver results to lift the poor from their poverty. The publicist of Ms Macapagal has tried to refit her into this failed role, raising expectations of the poor, even though the economic slowdown has denied her the resources to alleviate poverty. Because her anti-poverty program is showing negligible results, her spin doctors seemed to have seized on gimmickry to win the allegiance of the poor without delivering results to them. Gimmickry serves as a tranquilizer which like anesthesia, wears out after a while.

What the masses expect from President Macapagal is not a strong dose of propaganda and change of costumes in a vaudeville promoted by government TV to make her look like a second-rate Erap. ,They expect results and they have a healthy respect for her expertise and economic management ability. The masses have been quite patient with her and have expected her to stick to what she is, given her formidable credentials for the presidency.

But the poor's patience is wearing thin, partly because they are being fed with gimmickry rather than solid results. The slump in the President's approval rating in the public opinion surveys for the first quarter is a warning to Ms Macapagal and her gimmick artist, Dante Ang, that the effort to give her a populist visage has failed. Ang has given the President rubbish for advice, and despite this signal, she has formalized Ang's role as consultant on PR, in defiance of public opinion.

Rigoberto Tiglao saw this signal of a gathering storm clearly. On the pretext of taking a six-month sabbatical to take up an academic fellowship in Japan, Tiglao took off following the publication of the polls showing the slide of presidential popularity.

Tiglao had been uneasy with Ang. Tiglao viewed his job of presidential spokesperson as one of explaining issues and policies. With inclinations toward scholarship, he did his job with dignity and promoting informed discussion. Ang's approach has nothing to do with cerebral exercise. It is doing hocus-pocus. His approach, over which Tiglao had no control, created problems for Tiglao in answering criticisms against the President. Tiglao quit before the fall-out coming from Ang's *bakya* image-building could harm his professionalism. The presidency as an institution does not need gimmickry. It is a bully pulpit, dominated by the President, from which informed public discussion and debate can ensue over policy and programs. Entrusting the presentation of the presidency to cosmetics artists and hairdressers debases that institution.

A positive spin for Mindanao?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"IN ALL its morbid splendor" is how Allan Marapao, the new president of the Zamboanga del Norte Press Club, describes how the national media often portray Mindanao. Having been himself a correspondent for a national daily, Allan says he has first-hand experience of how editors in Manila seem to think of news from the region only in terms of violence, conflict, and crime. But the truth is that, says Allan, save for pockets of armed conflict and crime, "Mindanao is free, peaceful and beautiful."

To this end, said Allan, during his term, he would give priority to "reviving the Mindanao Press Association" with the help of other media organizations on the island, starting with the Iligan Press, Radio and TV Club, a "sister organization" of the ZNPC, some of whose members were special guests at the club's 37th Induction and Fellowship Night.

Once the "Minpra" is off and running, said Allan, he was optimistic it would be easier for Mindanao-based journalists to present a united front before the national media in advocating for a more balanced portrayal of Mindanao, one that is more reflective of its realities. And of its complexity and diversity, I might add.

* * *

ON THE PLANE on the way to Dipolog, where I was to be a guest speaker at the ZNPC affair, I happened to sit beside a woman who, like me, was also a first-time visitor to Zamboanga del Norte.

"Weren't you scared about flying to Dipolog?" she asked me. I said I wasn't at all because I knew Dipolog was quite a distance from Zamboanga City or Basilan, and was not affected at all by Balikatan or the Abu Sayyaf.

Which is why I told the media folk that perhaps the effort to project a more realistic image of Mindanao should begin with "a simple geography lesson" for editors, publishers and news producers in Manila. There is need, perhaps, to finally drum into the heads of news managers that Mindanao IS a large island, with a diverse population facing a wide range of problems and issues unique to each region, socio-economic history and ethnic mix. And that, when a kidnapping, a bloody encounter or fighting breaks out somewhere in Mindanao, it might be more helpful for readers if the headlines says in what province or city the incident took place, rather than just saying it was in Mindanao. That would be about as informative as telling us, after a bank is held up in Marilao, Bulacan, that "robbers hit bank in Luzon."

Not that journalism in Zamboanga del Norte, or in Mindanao, for that matter, is a completely sunny endeavor. Allan, whom I met during an advocacy workshop on reproductive rights, set up seven years ago the newest newsweekly in the province, the "Tingog Peninsula" or Voice of the Peninsula, referring to the Zamboanga provinces. When it was launched, he said, even some media colleagues were laying out bets that the paper would not last even a year. Perhaps the secret of "Tingog's" success is that, as another ZNPC member said, it is the "most feared" of Dipolog's six weekly newspapers.

* * *

ZAMBOANGA del Norte is certainly a vibrant media market. Dipolog, which struck me as a clean, quiet and crime-free city seems to have enough committed and concerned citizens to support six weeklies, numerous radio stations and three local TV stations, aside from being a viable market for national papers.

This is because, claim Rose Patangan-Miranda and Edith Pagente Tomong, who brought me around Dipolog and Dapitan to see the sights, their provincemates are all "Hitachi," a contraction of the Visayan terms for vigilant, outspoken and gossipy.

The province also has a storied legacy in journalism. Another major challenge for Allan's term, for instance, is the completion of the Jacobo S. Amatong Memorial Press Center, named after the older brother of current Gov. Isagani Amatong. Amatong, then editor of the Mindanao Observer, was killed in 1984 by a still-unidentified gunman when he came to answer a knock on his front door. In 1996, another crusading journalist and human rights lawyer, Ferdinand Reyes, was shot dead together with a companion while strolling down the street. To this day, the crime has yet to be solved.

The killings might be explained by what seems to be a Zamboanga del Norte tradition of combative journalism, which in the local provincial setting often provokes violence. But this tradition might also be the reason there are several elected officials (including Vice Gov. Eduardito Pacatang) among the ZNPC members. Obviously, media folk enjoy high credibility and trust among the voting public.

* * *

MANY thanks to the members and officers of the ZNPC for their hospitality. Allan and his wife Venus, hosted the welcome lunch even if it intruded with the birthday party of their son Pope. Rose, Edith, Emma Prima of the PIA and Fiscal Ruben Legorio, were most informative guides to Zamboanga del Norte's history, politics, social mores and *chismis*.

Anita Amatong, wife of the governor, represented him at the induction and fellowship night, and then urged me to join her at a local dance club to sample the Dipolog night life. Quite a skilled and graceful dancer she is, too! My gratitude also to Dr. Hernani Contrivida, who hosted a sumptuous brunch of seafood at the Dipolog School of Fisheries. I also had the good fortune of meeting Mayor Franklin Quijano of Iligan and other Dipolog local officials, during my very brief visit which, come to think of it, merits an encore!

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Powell mission keeps US in Mideast peace process

NEWS ANALYSIS

Tom Raum

WASHINGTON—Colin Powell's disappointing Mideast peace mission is prompting painful soul searching by the Bush administration on what can possibly be done to keep Israeli-Palestinian violence from hurtling into all-out war.

Still, analysts say the secretary of state's trip at least got the United States back into the peace process.

Despite the absence of a breakthrough, "Powell and the Bush administration did absolutely the right thing in reengaging the United States," said Antony Blinken, a former National Security Council official in the Clinton White House. "This lets a little steam out of the situation."

Powell comes back without achieving even his minimum objective: a ceasefire. But he pledged to return to the region and to keep the United States engaged. President Bush, who once sought to avoid a US mediating role, echoed that pledge.

"We're confronting hatred that is centuries old, disputes that have lingered for decades, but I want you to know I will continue to lead toward a vision of peace," Bush said in a speech to the Virginia Military Institute.

One possible next step, Powell told reporters as he wound up his trip, is a regional conference with international sponsorship, "to restore hope" and open the way to new peace negotiations.

But plans for such a conference have so far been received coolly by many in the Arab world. And a senior administration official said the president wants a chance to think about it before deciding whether to embrace such an idea.

The Powell mission comes on the heels of another disappointing trip to the region last month by Vice President Dick Cheney.

The president's future approach may be signaled on April 25, when he meets with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, author of a land-for-peace initiative that has strong Arab-world support.

The senior official, briefing reporters on Air Force One, said that Bush's Mideast plans include much greater engagement of the Arab states.

"What the president is going to hear from the crown prince is that this problem has to be resolved, and that they are counting on the United States to do it," said Judith Kipper, a Mideast analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "The situation is intolerable, and it is affecting stability in the region."

Powell failed to persuade Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to go along with the quick withdrawal from Palestinian areas that Bush demanded on April 4.

Rebuffed by Sharon, Powell also came under Arab criticism for not doing enough to pressure Israel.

"The situation is worse today than it was seven days ago," before Powell arrived in Israel, said lead Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat. Powell even got the cold shoulder from Egypt, a key US ally, with President Hosni Mubarak's abrupt cancellation of plans to meet him on his way home.

"A ceasefire is not a relevant term at the moment," Powell told reporters, noting that Israel still was pursuing its military offensive. "It is in the process of ending, I hope," he said of the Israeli action.

Even so, Powell said he was encouraged that Sharon had announced plans to pull out of most Palestinian areas within a week.

Administration officials noted that Powell did succeed in getting a clearer picture from Sharon of a withdrawal timetable and had been able to coax from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat a denunciation of the most recent suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

Powell also said that Bush was prepared to send back CIA Director George Tenet, author of a previous truce blueprint. A White House aide said that Tenet's visit could come as early as next week—and that his travels would be discussed by Bush and Powell when they meet on Thursday.

"In some ways, everybody is hostage to events. But if we don't have diplomacy, violence dictates," said Shibley Telhami, a Mideast specialist at the University of Maryland.

"I really think there is no way you can move forward from this point on unless the president is fully invested in peacemaking," Telhami said. "The next couple of weeks are important." **AP**

Why we need May 1

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

FOR MANY weeks now the government has been preparing for a possible massive mobilization of pro-Estrada forces on the occasion of the anniversary of the May 1 siege of Malacañang. The apprehension is understandable, especially in light of the reported drop in Rresident Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's trust ratings according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) opinion survey. Of course, the same survey showed that the trust ratings of former President Joseph Estrada likewise dropped and have in fact remained at negative levels since last year. But this has apparently not lessened the perception of discontent among the poor. The announcements made in succession last week of possible increases in the prices of oil, electricity and water have all the more created a general feeling of helplessness brought on by the loss of purchasing power.

May 1 has consequently come to acquire a different meaning, and with it a different form of "celebration," for the country's working poor. Traditionally, the groups that mobilized on May 1 belonged to the big labor federations and they usually congregated in Plaza Miranda or Liwasang Bonifacio to press for wage increases and denounce anti-labor policies. But now it seems that a different segment of the working class has coopted May 1 and transformed it into a symbol for a different form of class oppression.

Indeed because of the smallness of the organized sector of the country's urban working class, the May 1 mobilizations of the big labor federations have never succeeded in generating a broad-based and popularly supported social movement around wage and labor issues. By contrast, the majority of the more than a million people who joined the demonstrations at the Edsa Shrine prior to the May 1 Malacañang attack last year are probably not employed in a formal sense. They are the self-employed, underemployed or marginally employed poor, definitely the poorest and more numerous segment of the urban working class. Their self-identification is not with the working class but with the poor who make up Manila's slum and squatter communities.

Realizing this, President Macapagal spent a good deal of her first year in office visiting the urban poor communities around Metro Manila and proclaiming a number of these which are located on government-owned land as available for distribution to their urban poor occupants. This move has received a positive response from the residents of these communities. Now it is reportedly harder to recruit people from these areas to join a pro-Erap rally. Perhaps it is not so much that people have lost their sympathy for Erap as it is that they are careful not to compromise their prospect for gaining security on their land. To some extent, the strategy of winning the poor through these presidential land proclamations has worked.

Nevertheless the recruitment of pro-Estrada ralliers continues in many urban poor communities. According to reports, people are not just recruited to join mobilizations but also to attend study sessions wherein the participants are given some kind of "ideological" orientation. It thus appears that the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), the umbrella organization of former President Estrada's supporters, is organizing not just a May 1 mobilization or a series of mobilizations but a movement that hopes to build its mass appeal on the poor people's sense of deprivation and antipathy for the rich.

Estrada is no longer the central figure in this unfolding scenario of a poor people's movement. It is clear from the SWS and Pulse Asia surveys that although many of the poor think that Erap is being treated unfairly by the justice system, this sympathy is not enough to counter the trend of declining trust ratings for the former head of state. If the PMAP continues to organize to consolidate and expand its ranks, it is logical to expect that it is not doing this primarily to restore Estrada to the presidency but to preserve his constituency among the poor for a longer-term political project.

We do not know yet what this project is but it is reasonable to expect that part of it would be to challenge the reelection of President Macapagal. We are still two years away from the next presidential election but the terms of the 2004 electoral contest are already being defined this early. What groups will be coming out on May 1, the numbers they are able to bring to the streets and the messages they will carry will set the agenda for President Macapagal's anti-poverty and electoral campaigns. This is what happened last year. The government was quick to respond to the May 1 incident because of the big numbers involved and the threat it posed to the stability and credibility of the new administration. Thus the government's Kalahi program specifically prioritized the urban poor communities which joined the May 1 attack on Malacañang.

The labor groups that will be holding their traditional demonstrations on May 1 should be less concerned about the President's moving the non-working holiday to April 29, a decisiopn she rescinded anyway. They should be bothered more by the pro-Erap forces' cooptation of May 1 as a working class symbol and tradition and inserting into it a populist ideology founded on a hollow anti-elite social analysis. If these groups mobilize in big numbers on May 1, they are bound to overshadow the traditional mobilization of the organized labor movement and put to the sidelines the issues of the formal labor sector.

On the other hand, if the pro-Estrada forces are somehow able to set aside Estrada as their central political agenda and instead bring to center stage the legitimate issues and the desperation of the poor, their action would have served a purpose. Because our nation and its leaders have the unhealthy habit of forgetting how big a problem poverty is in this country, we need May 1 to remind us that the real threat to our democracy is not Estrada but "politics as usual," with its chronic lack of attention to the plight of the poor.

THEY SAID

Moot and academic

"The priest has returned safely so we should direct our efforts to other inquiries."

—Vice chair of the House committee on defense Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo II, responding to calls for an inquiry into the release of Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni

Hungry for a scoop

"I am confessing to one 'crime': that I entered this mess because I'm a scoop-hungry reporter. *Gusto ko ako lang, ako ang una, ako ang magbubunyag.* There was a time the media organizations I represented in the past considered that as an asset, *di ba?*"

—Journalist Arlyn de la Cruz, explaining how she got kidnapped in Sulu

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Blocking the view of Taal volcano

TOURISM Secretary Richard J. Gordon deserves the warmest congratulations for his groundbreaking initiatives toward the development of domestic tourism in the country. He brings to such a campaign his distinctive brand of vision, energy and creativity—the very same qualities he used to turn the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority into a winning proposition in his time.

The effort seems to be bearing fruit already. In my recent trip to Batangas, I saw that there were more people than usual taking advantage of the three-day weekend.

Passing by Tagaytay, however, I noted that a clear and unobstructed view of the volcano and the lake from the ridges along which the road winds, is becoming less and less possible. If I remember correctly, there used to be a prohibition on the construction of structures higher than the ridges, apparently to preserve a clear view of Taal from the road. Today, there are not just structures but also vendors and their wares obstructing the view.

Perhaps Gordon and Tagaytay Mayor Francis Tolentino could put their heads together on this. My own thinking is that it may be in the best interest of tourism to compel the vendors to move their stalls and wares to the other side of the road, where they would not block the view.

Keep up the great work, Secretary Gordon.

—ROBERT C. NACIANCENO, assistant city administrator for operations, Quezon City

Frequent changes in DepEd programs

MAY I give my two cents' worth regarding the implementation of the Department of Education's new school curriculum this coming school year?

I am a retired DepEd district supervisor with a total of 42 years in the service. One of the reasons the DepEd program today cannot be compared to the education program before World War II is the change of policies every time there is a new education secretary or head of the Philippine educational system. Just to mention a few: First, we had the Community Education Program, followed by the Integration Technique of Teaching. This was followed by the Continuous Progression Scheme. Preceding this new school curriculum were the New Elementary and New Secondary School curricula. These different policies, thrusts, programs and techniques or schemes were implemented without proper evaluation for effectiveness. Besides, no consultations were conducted with the clientele and implementers. These programs were merely made to suit the idiosyncrasies of the top man in the educational system.

In addition, the implementers were ill prepared, the teaching materials were inadequate and the programs were started without informing the parents and the students.

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA, administrative consultant, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan

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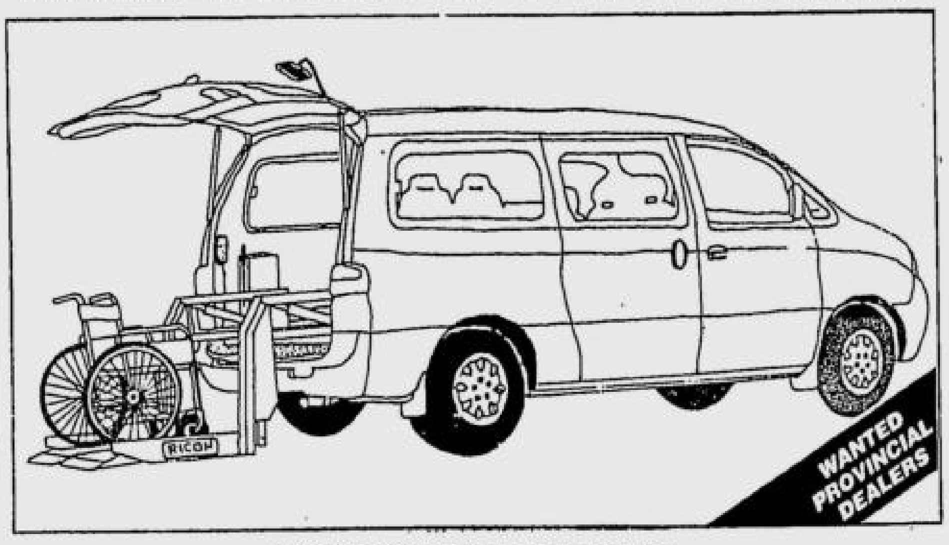

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A constitutional convention or a constituent assembly?

IN THE APRIL 10, 2002 issue of the INQUIRER, Senators John Osmeña and Franklin Drilon and Representatives Willie Villarama and Raul Gonzalez were mentioned as among the proponents of charter change.

Drilon even proposed that a bicameral congressional committee be formed to review the Constitution and recommend amendments to Congress acting as a constituent assembly. For his part, Villarama suggested that the best way to amend the charter would be through a constitutional convention whose members are freely elected by the people.

I think a proper distinction should first be made as to what constitutional changes are to be made since a modification of the provisions of the Constitution can be effected either by amendment or revision as provided in Article XVII. If what is being sought is the mere amendment of the Constitution, which entails an isolated or piecemeal change only, or a change in some provisions only, then this task is better left to Congress.

But if the popular clamor calls for the Constitution to be rewritten and overhauled, if only to put an end to evil politicking and ensure that our nation is governed by truly qualified, elective and appointive officials, then a constitutional convention should be convened. In this case, the people will then be able to elect their own delegates, free from partisan politics. With a constitutional convention, we can have a Constitution that will be free from personal and partisan interests and which will reflect the people's will.

—EDILBERTO A. BALINGIT, honorary president, Aguman Capampangan, Olongapo City

Where's the raise in AFP retirees' pensions?

I AM appealing to the President in behalf of thousands of Armed Forces of the Philippines retirees, who were given an increase of 10 percent in their pensions effective Jan. 1, 2000. To this date, what we have received are only the differentials from January to August 2000. How about our differentials for the months of September to December 2000, the whole year of 2001, and this year 2002? Our pensions have also not been adjusted up to now.

According to the chief of the Pension and Gratuity Division of the AFP Finance Center, there was no fund support from the Department of Budget and Management for the payment of the 10-percent adjustment or its incorporation in the pension of AFP retirees/pensioners. He gave the assurance that if funds would be allocated for this purpose, payment would be made immediately to every AFP retiree and pensioner.

We need this amount for our daily sustenance and medical expenses.

—COL. RODOLFO B. HECHANOVA, PA (ret.), Aquino Street, St. Joseph Subd., Balabago, Jaro, Iloilo City

Mistakes in Doronila book

I WOULD like to congratulate Amando Doronila for a job well done in writing the book, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada." But although it is well researched, there are still some mistakes.

Allow me to correct some minor errors that I found in the book:

- San Juan, Metro Manila is not a city, it is a first-class municipality.
- Estrada finished high school in 1955, not 1995.
- In March 1986, Brig. Gen. Alfredo S. Lim was not the chief of the Manila police (Western Police District). He was the chief of the Northern Police District, and San Juan was under the NPD. Lim became WPD chief on May 2, 1986, replacing Brig. Gen. Narciso Cabrera.
- It is impossible that Panfilo Lacson was a colonel in 1972. He graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1971, and he must have been only a second lieutenant in 1972.
- It is not the Metro Rail Transit but the Light Rail Transit which traverses Taft and Rizal Avenues, and it was the LRT station in Bambang that was bombed. The MRT passes through Edsa only.
- Guillermo Wong, is not a rear admiral, he's a vice admiral. As Flag-Officer-In-Command of the Philippine Navy, he held a three-star rank. Rear admiral is a two-star rank.
- The camp commander of Camp Crame (chief, Headquarters Support Service, PNP) during Edsa III (and until now) was Chief Supt. Prospero Noble Jr., not Gen. Nestorio Gualberto.
- The correct name of the "Philippine Army Light Regiment (PALAR)" is Philippine Army Light Armored Regiment (PALAR).
- Eduardo Matillano is a senior superintendent, not a colonel.
- The right name is Edsa Shangrila Hotel, not Edsa Plaza Shangri-la Hotel, and the hotel is in Mandaluyong, not Pasig.
- The title of Eraño Manalo is executive minister, not executive director.
- There is no J.P. Rizal Street in the vicinity of Nagtahan and Malacañang, but there is a J.P. Laurel Street.
- It should be noted that the military ranks are different from those in the PNP. Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, now chief of the Police Regional Office 3, is a police officer, not a military officer. From 1991 to 2001 he was a senior superintendent. He was mentioned in the book four times with different ranks.

—JOBET PAULINO, Development Academy of the Philippines, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

Why are these alternatives untouched?

THERE is not much that can be done about the (power purchase adjustment) PPA component of Meralco's billing to its customers. It is simply payback time for the economic turnaround in the early 1990s partly achieved by augmentation of the National Power Corp.'s generating capacity with independent power producers (IPPs) to meet the power demands of foreign investors. It is just unfortunate that the benefit of this economic miracle trumpeted by the Ramos administration did not sink to the grass roots. While the boom generated substantial profits for big business to invest beyond our shores, it changed little the lot of the man in the street.

We are told that because of onerous provisions in the contracts signed with the Ramos administration, IPPs are paid for power we do not use. Why are the IPPs not required to generate all the power they have contracted for and let the Napocor fill only the balance of the nation's demand? This way we get the power worth the money paid to the IPPs and Napocor's operating cost on fuel is reduced and wear and tear of its equipment is minimized. There must be a good reason why this is not done not known to the general public.

Meralco's petition for increase in power rates is altogether another matter. It would be worthwhile, as suggested by some sectors that an independent audit be conducted of Meralco's operations to ensure that its profits guaranteed by its franchise are not channeled to shore up other losing companies in the Lopez conglomerate. The same goes for the Maynilad waterworks.

—E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

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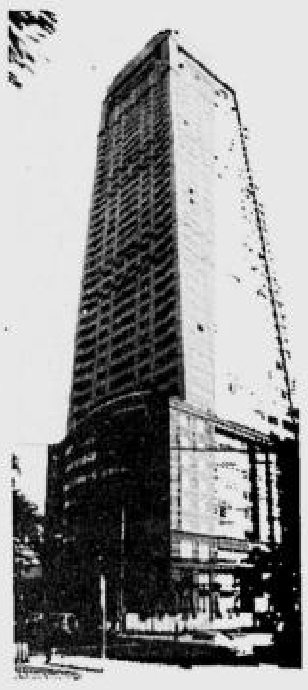
on June 17, 2002



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April 9, 2002

Dear Dr. Mariano de la Cruz,

I send my warmest greetings on the occasion of your appointment as Dean of the San Beda College of Medicine.

It is an honor to our Alma Mater that our professors and colleagues are appointed to high offices in prestigious schools.

I am sure that your years of teaching experience will mold a new breed of excellent medical students, consistent with the high goals of our Alma Mater.

Your colleague,

ALFREDO T. RAMIREZ, MD., MS.
Chancellor

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
8/F Philippine General Hospital
Taft Avenue, Manila 1000

09 April 2002

Dear Dr. Mariano de la Cruz:

My staff and I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Dean of the San Beda College of Medicine.

In the same manner that we, your students at U.P. College of Medicine learned a great deal under your preceptorship, your new medical students at San Beda College will certainly benefit much from your expertise making them excel in their chosen fields.

We wish you success in your new endeavor.

Your student and colleague,

ARLENE A. SAMANIEGO, MD
Vice Chancellor for Administration

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
8/F Central Block, Philippine General Hospital
Taft Avenue, Manila

April 9, 2002

Dear Dr. Mariano de la Cruz,

I congratulate you on your appointment as Dean of the San Beda College of Medicine.

I am sure that you and your staff will bring professionalism, integrity and excellence to San Beda College of Medicine.

I am certain that your medical students will benefit greatly from your vast knowledge and teaching experience.

Your colleague,

NESTOR S. PAREJA, MD.
Vice Chancellor for Planning & Development

PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL
University of the Philippines Manila
Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila

April 9, 2002

Dear Dr. Mariano de la Cruz:

The Philippine General Hospital congratulates you in your new role as Dean of the San Beda College of Medicine. Your years of teaching in the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines has produced thousands of doctors who bring comfort to their patients. In your new home, you will undoubtedly continue this noble undertaking.

The PGH wishes you and your school success for the coming years.

From a former student,

JUAN MA. PABLO R. NAÑAGAS, MD, MPH
Director

PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL
University of the Philippines Manila
Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila

April 9, 2002

Dear Dr. Mariano de la Cruz,

I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Dean of the San Beda College of Medicine. It is expected that you will exhibit in your new position the same kind of zeal, diligence, professionalism and dedication that you have manifested during your long relationship with your alma mater, the UP College of Medicine, both as a faculty member and as an administrator. The students of your new college will surely benefit from the experience and knowledge that you can impart to them.

Again, my heartfelt congratulations to you on this your latest achievement. Rest assured that we are at your beck and call whenever the need arises.

Your student and colleague,

JOSELITO C. JAMIR, MD
Assistant Director for Fiscal Services

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Al-Qaida claims responsibility for 9/11 attacks

DUBAI—Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network claimed responsibility for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States for the first time in a videotape aired Wednesday which showed the suspected terror mastermind and his chief aides.

"We were able to hit the head of the infidels on his own turf," al-Qaida spokesperson Suleiman Abu Ghaith said in the tape, "whose recording apparently began in December," according to the Dubai-based Middle East Broadcasting Center.

"God the Almighty ordered us to terrorize the infidels, and we terrorized the infidels," said the turbaned Abu Ghaith, who sat amid rocks wearing a brown *dishdasha* (traditional Arab robe).

The videotape was interspersed with footage of New York's World Trade Center collapsing and attempts to rescue victims of the grisly attack.

The tape also showed pictures of 13 al-Qaida "martyrs," 12 Arabs and one Pakistani, killed in US-led strikes on Afghanistan launched last October in retaliation for the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon outside Washington.

"We did what God the Almighty ordered us to do. God the Almighty ordered us to aid the oppressed and we aided the oppressed. God the Almighty ordered us to fight the commanders of infidels, and we fought the commanders of infidels.

"We responded to the call of the oppressed in Palestine, Chechnya and everywhere," Abu Ghaith said.

"We were able to hit the head of the infidels . . . who openly avows his hostility to Islam," he added.

His remarks amounted to the first direct claim of responsibility by al-Qaida for the suicide attacks on New York and Washington, which have been praised before by spokespersons for the organization and by Bin Laden himself.

Kuwaiti-born Abu Ghaith first emerged as al-Qaida spokesperson last Oct. 7, when he was shown next to Bin Laden in a videotape aired by Qatar-based Al-Jazeera satellite channel shortly after the United States launched its war on Afghanistan.

Abu Ghaith appeared three times within a week in videotapes aired by Al-Jazeera, systematically calling on Muslims to hit US interests and nationals.

This prompted Kuwait to strip him of his citizenship on Oct. 14, 2001.

On the videotape aired by MBC Wednesday, Bin Laden hailed the economic losses suffered by the United States as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"By their own admission, the (Americans') losses on Wall Street reached 16 percent (of the market's value), an unprecedented figure since the market opened more than 230 years ago," Bin Laden said.

"This is equivalent to Sudan's budget for 640 years," Bin Laden added.

"According to American studies, 70 percent of Americans still suffer depression and psychological trouble following the events of the (World Trade Center's) twin towers and the Pentagon," he said.

"The losses are of such magnitude that no one can assess them, and they are mounting, thanks be to God.

"The losses total at least one trillion dollars, thanks to God and to these successful and blessed strikes. May God accept the brother martyrs in paradise," said Bin Laden, referring to the suicide hijackers who crashed their planes in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. *AFP*

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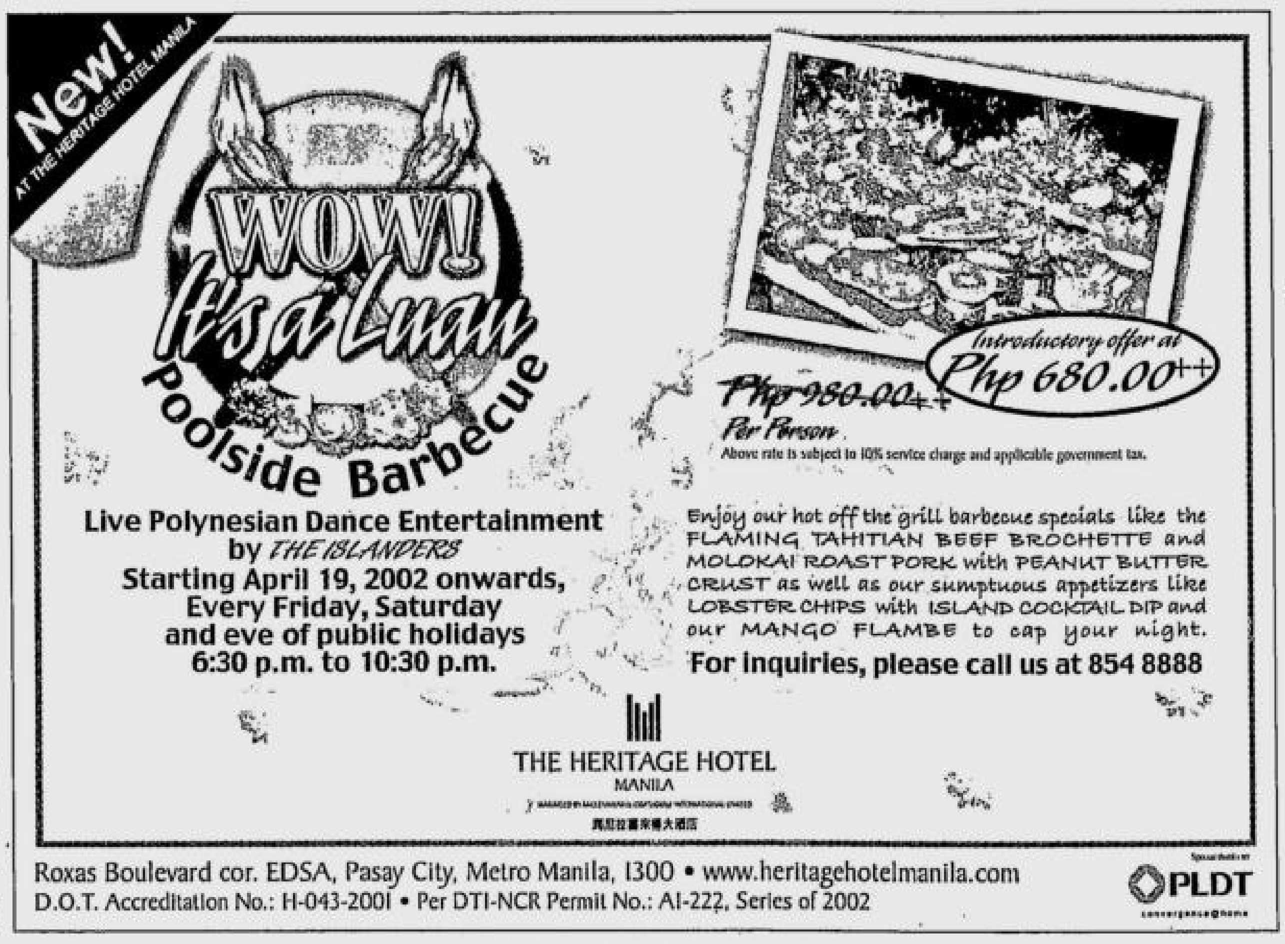

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Afghan ex-king returns home

KABUL—Former king Mohammed Zahir Shah stepped foot on Afghan soil for the first time in 29 years Thursday to assume a new role as the father figure of his traumatized nation.

Zahir Shah, 87, stepped off an Italian military plane followed by interim Cabinet chair Hamid Karzai and was greeted by senior tribal elders and ministers at Kabul's bomb-scarred international airport.

A military honor guard stood to attention as the former king walked across the tarmac over a red carpet, flanked by Karzai and Deputy Defense Minister Abdul Rashid Dostam, a powerful warlord from the north.

Many of the turbaned tribal chiefs rushed to kiss Zahir Shah's hand in greeting, as security agents tried to keep them from swamping the aged former monarch.

His return from Italy for the first time since he was ousted in a coup in 1973 is seen as highly symbolic of Afghanistan's return to stability after more than two decades of war.

He has said he is not interested in resuming the throne, and has been called upon only to inaugurate a Loya Jirga, or grand assembly of tribal chiefs, in June to select a transitional government.

Security was extremely tight at the airport after the discovery last month of an alleged plot to sabotage the interim government and assassinate leaders including Karzai and Zahir Shah.

The king left Rome just after midnight under close watch from the Italian government, which was in charge of the king's welfare until the moment he touched down in Afghanistan.

The Italian government, which will also be in charge of security at the ex-king's house in Kabul until an Afghan guard can be trained to take over, had kept details of his journey secret for security reasons.

He was accompanied by a 20-strong entourage including his three sons—Ahmad Shah, Nader Shah and Mirwais Zahir—and five other family members, another spokesperson Zalmai Rasoul said.

His wife, ex-queen Homaira, remained behind in Rome for health reasons.

More than 200 people were arrested earlier this month for allegedly plotting a bombing campaign against the interim regime and leaders such as Karzai and the former king, officials said.

The International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) in Afghanistan has said it is satisfied that the security situation in Kabul has improved, but British, French and German troops were on hand at the airport.

An Isaf spokesperson said the ex-king's security was the responsibility of the interim administration, but Isaf ambulances were on hand as he drove from the airport in a black Mercedes for his residence in the relatively wealthy Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood.

The king's return is a personal triumph for Karzai, thought to be one of few royalists within his Cabinet.

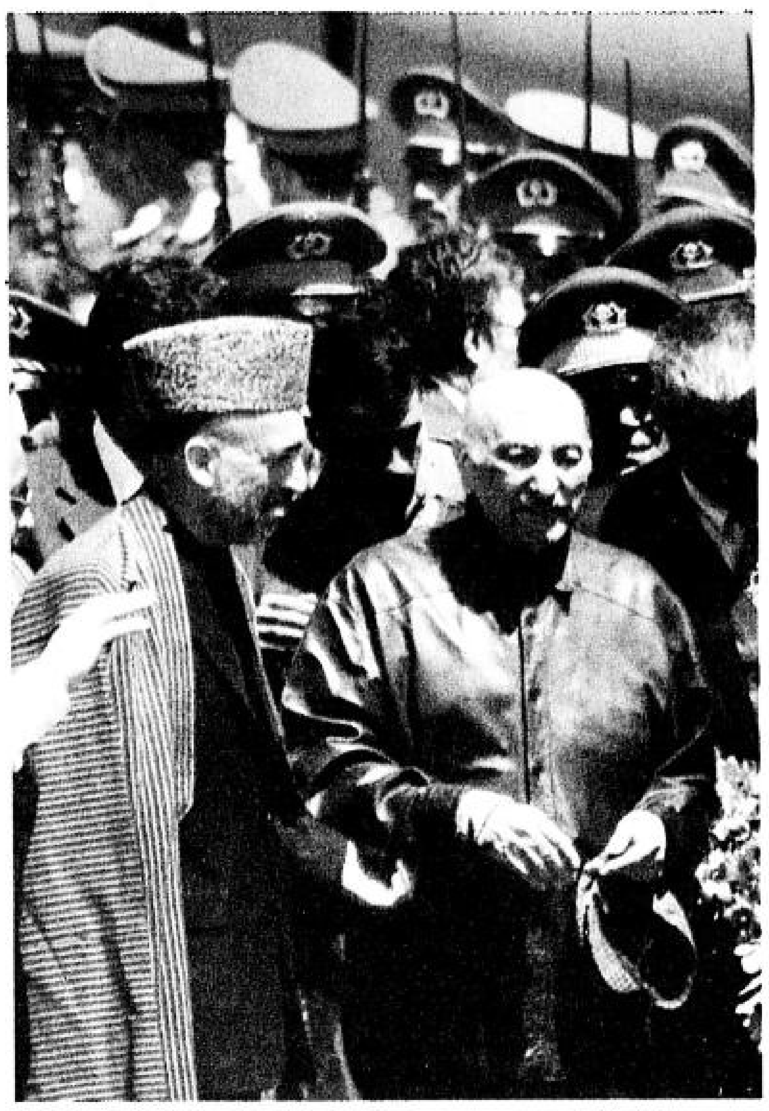
On his arrival in Rome Tuesday, Karzai hailed the anticipated return of "a father figure and a symbol of the nation's unity."

Other powerful figures in the administration have stressed the king is returning only as a private citizen, underlining differences with Karzai's Cabinet between royalist and republican factions.

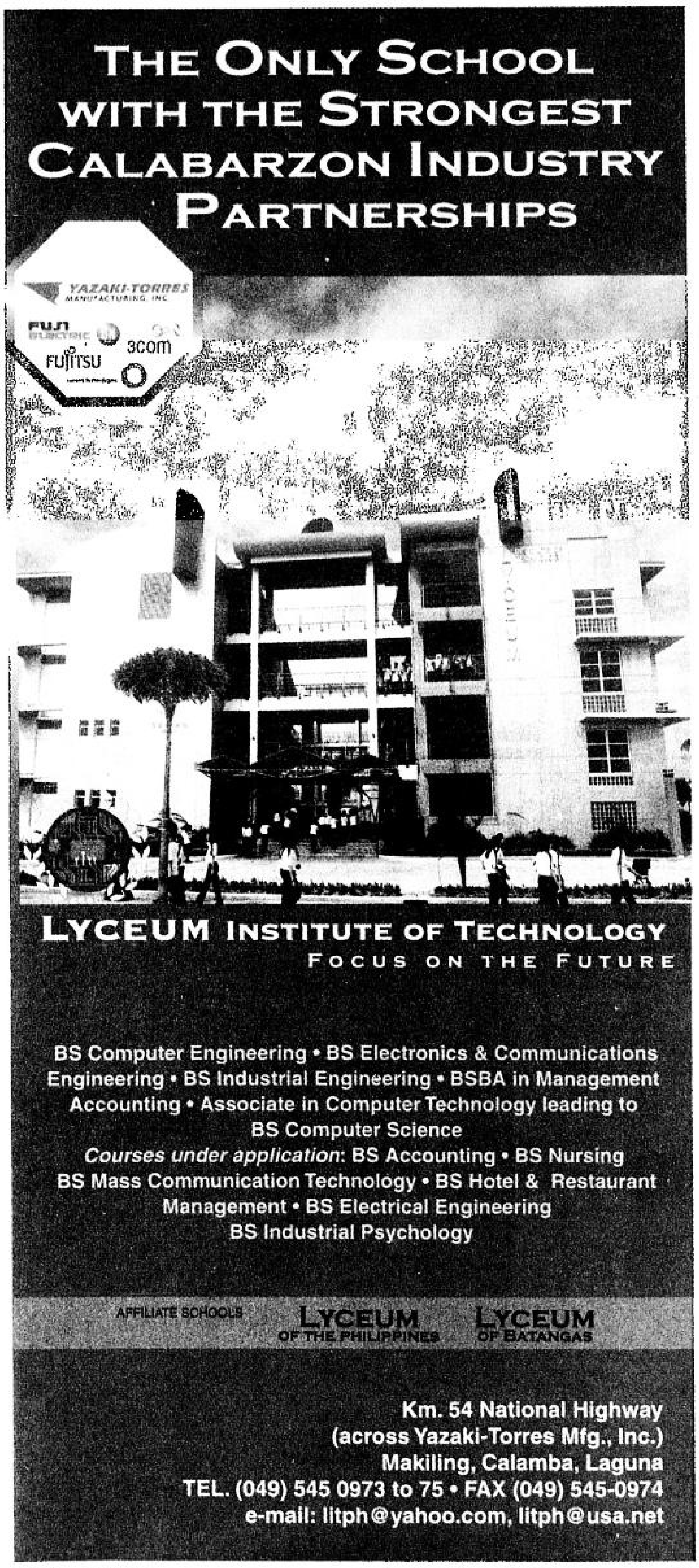
Zahir Shah's support is strongest among fellow Pashtuns who, Karzai apart, have been kept out of the most powerful political posts in the post-Taliban era.

There were few outward signs of celebration in Kabul itself although most Afghans appear to welcome his return as a symbol of better times ahead.

"Moral father of the suffering Afghan people: welcome to your country," read a slogan on a white piece of cloth on Zahir Shah's route from the airport. *AFP*



AFGHANISTAN'S ex-king Mohammad Zahir Shah (right) accompanied by the head of the interim Afghan government, Hamid Karzai, is welcomed upon arrival at the Kabul airport April 18. King Shah arrived home Thursday after 29 years of exile in Italy, carrying on his frail elderly shoulders hopes for a sea change in the nation's warring politics. REUTERS



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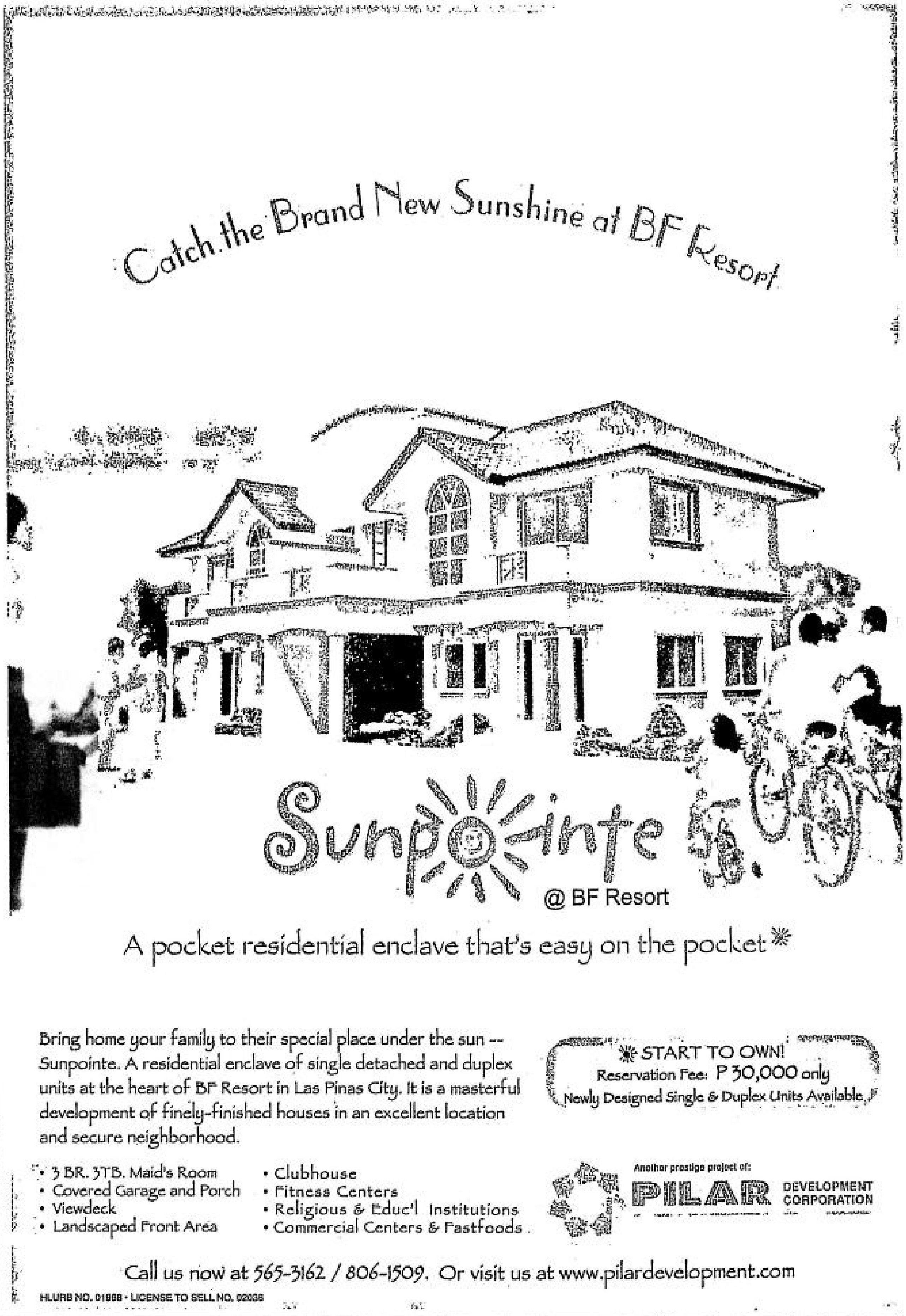

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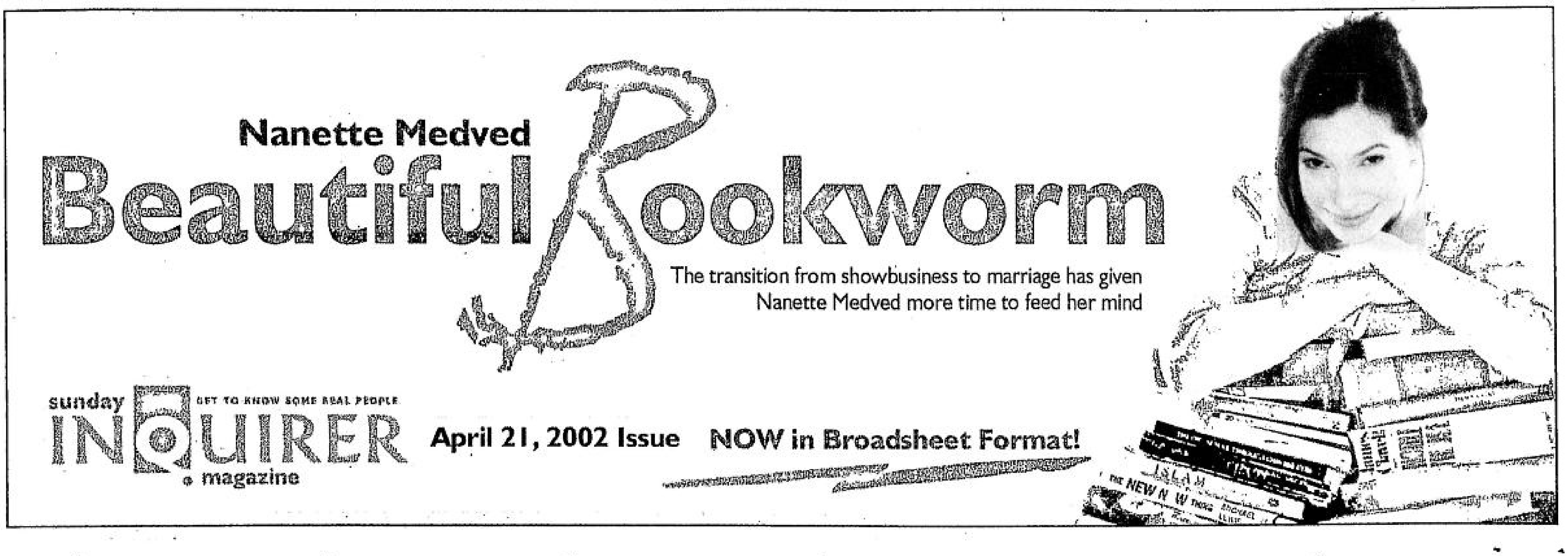

Nanette Medved
Beautiful Bookworm
The transition from showbusiness to marriage has given Nanette Medved more time to feed her mind

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4 Canada soldiers killed in 'friendly-fire' blasts

FILE photo dated March 15, 2002 shows Canadian soldiers moving through the Shahi Kot Valley of Afghanistan.

AFP

OTTAWA—Four Canadian soldiers were killed and eight wounded in Afghanistan when a US F-16 warplane dropped one or two bombs on them in a friendly fire incident, Canadian Gen. Ray Henault said on Thursday.

Coming just three days after the latest US deaths in Afghanistan, the incident marked the first Canadian casualties in an offensive combat operation since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Henault said the US plane clearly misidentified the Canadian forces, who were conducting a live-fire training exercise in the early hours of Thursday morning, Afghanistan time, in a recognized training zone south of Kandahar.

"We remain committed in our duty to this campaign and will certainly continue," Henault, chief of the defense staff, told a midnight news conference in Ottawa.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien promised to investigate the incident, which occurred at 5:25 p.m. EDT (4:25 a.m. in Manila) Wednesday.

"(US) President (George W.) Bush called me tonight to offer the sincerest condolences of the American people to the Canadian families. He also pledged complete cooperation with Canadian authorities who will carry out a thorough and complete investigation," Chretien said in a statement on Wednesday night.

Henault said the F-16 would have been on a patrol of the skies above Afghanistan, on well-controlled routes, and was not connected with the training exercise. He said it would normally have to get permission from the ground before attacking.

He said the Canadian troops were only firing at ground targets during the night-time exercise.

"My understanding is that there was no hostile activity in the area that would have created this incident," Henault said, adding however that details were still sketchy. "How this sort of thing could happen is a mystery to us."

Because the exercise was in the middle of the night, he said there was no way for the fighter flying at high altitude to visually identify the nationality of the Canadian troops before unleashing the 225-kg bomb or bombs. *Reuters*

US experts examine China jet 'black box'

KIMHAE, South Korea—US air safety experts, joined by South Korean and Chinese officials, examined two in-flight recorders Thursday that might shed light on the cause of the crash of a Chinese jetliner that left 122 people dead.

The Air China flight from Beijing slammed into a mountain with 166 people on board while preparing to land Monday at an airport outside Busan, South Korea's second largest city, 200 miles southeast of Seoul. Thirty-eight people survived and six are listed as missing.

The two "black boxes," which contain flight data and cockpit voice exchanges, were recovered from the plane's shattered wreckage.

The chief South Korean investigator, Choi Heung-ock, said the cockpit voice recorder was in good condition but that the flight data recorder was exposed to intensive heat.

"There is some fire damage. But they are built normally to withstand 1093.33 degrees Celsius of heat. So, I don't think we should have problems with that," said Alfred W. Dickinson, the chief US investigation team.

The recorders were to be brought to Seoul later in the day for deciphering.

US experts—including officials from the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration, Pratt & Whitney and Boeing—were asked to join the investigation because the crash involved an American-made Boeing 767-200.

Accounting for the victims has been difficult because many of the bodies and body parts recovered were burned or damaged beyond recognition. Officials planned DNA tests to identify them.

On Thursday the number of missing was revised to six from the previous count of two, lowering the number of confirmed dead to 122 from 126. The number of survivors remained unchanged.

Investigators also checked control systems at Kimhae Airport, where the Chinese jetliner was slated to land. The airport is used for both civilian and military planes, and its control tower is staffed by air force personnel.

The plane's Chinese pilot, 31-year-old Wu Xinlu, told South Korean officials earlier this week that the plane experienced no mechanical problems before the crash.

After receiving permission to land, controllers had asked Wu to change the direction of his approach due to a strong headwind, officials said. The plane hit the mountain while flying to the opposite side of the airport.

Officials said the pilot was on his fifth flight to Kimhae, but that it was the first time he was told to change the approach direction. *AP*

Taiwan seeks to buy Patriot missiles from US

TAIPEI—Taiwan is to seek to buy Patriot III missiles from the United States to boost its defense capability amid military threats from China, the United Daily News reported Thursday.

Military authorities in Taiwan and the US had reached a consensus for a request from Taipei to buy the weaponry produced by US-based Raytheon Company, it said.

The new missiles would be deployed in central and southern Taiwan, the paper said.

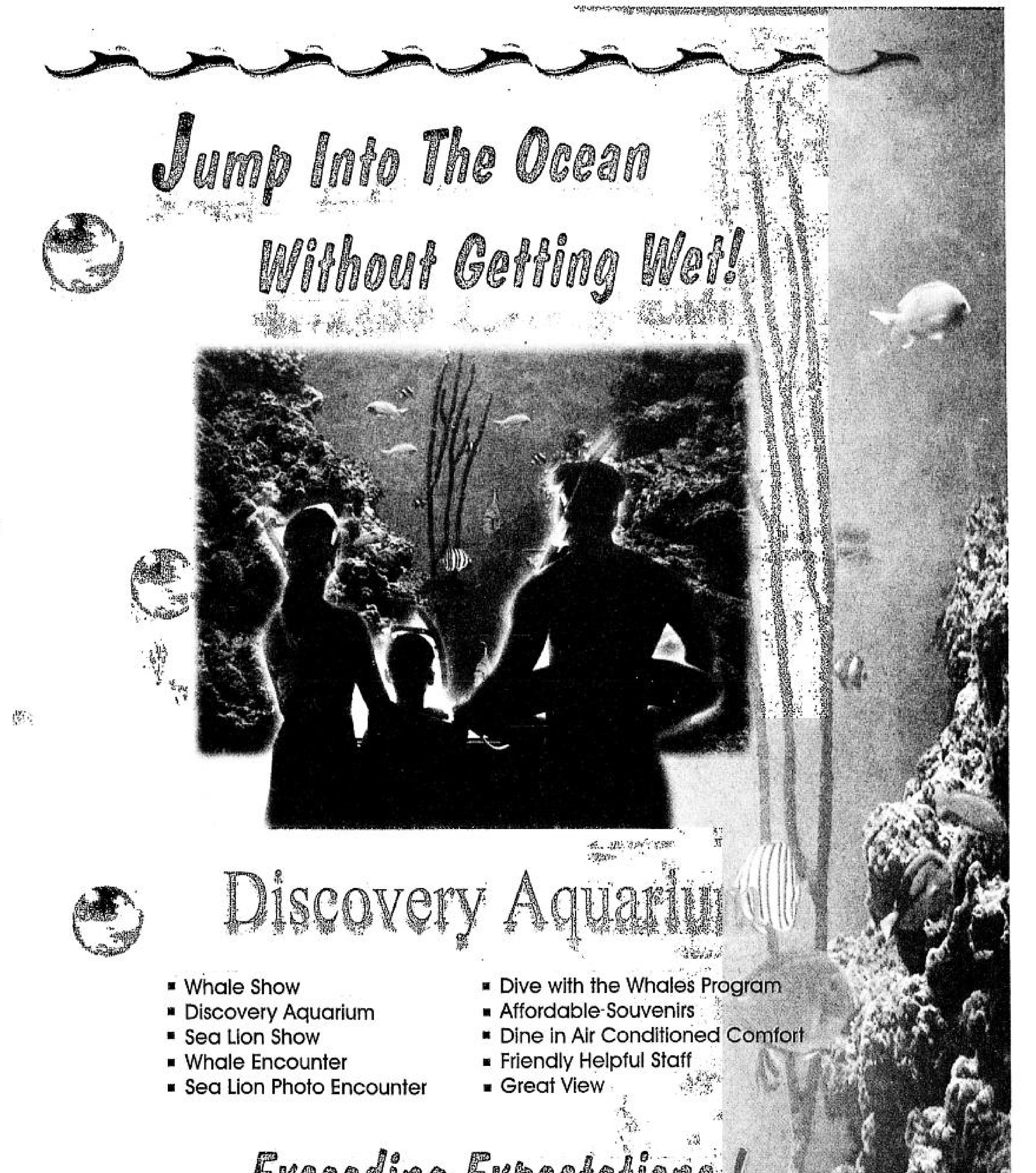
The defense ministry declined to comment on the report.

A US military delegation recently visited Taiwan to discuss arms sales, training programs and personnel exchanges as well as offering advice to the island's defense ministry, the paper said.

For the first time the US military team also included members from the US Joint Chiefs of Staff's office, it said.

Taiwan is striving to beef up its missile capability in a bid to fend off threats from China, which reportedly has at least 300 ballistic missiles stationed along its southeast coast targeting the island.

US President George W. Bush in April last year approved the most comprehensive arms package since 1992 to Taipei. The multibillion-dollar deal included eight diesel electric submarines, four Kidd-class destroyers and 12 submarine-hunting aircraft. *AFP*



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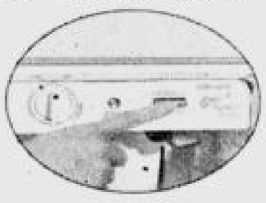

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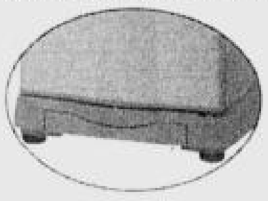

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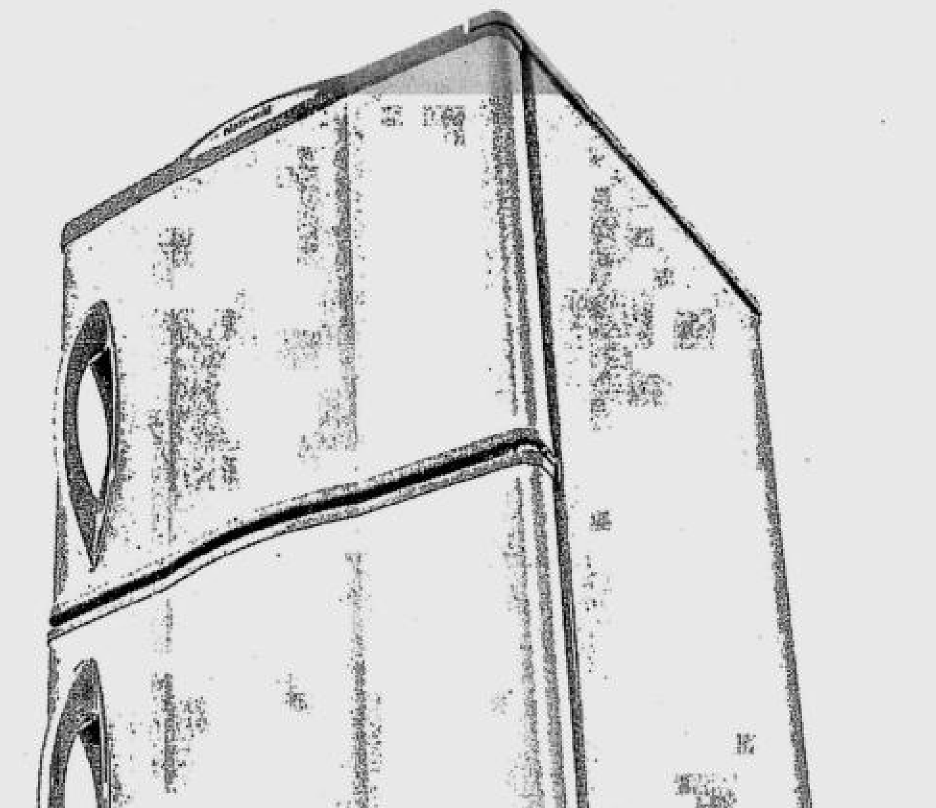

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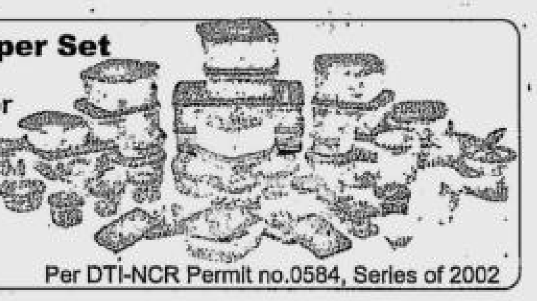


Per DTI-NCR Permit no.0584, Series of 2002

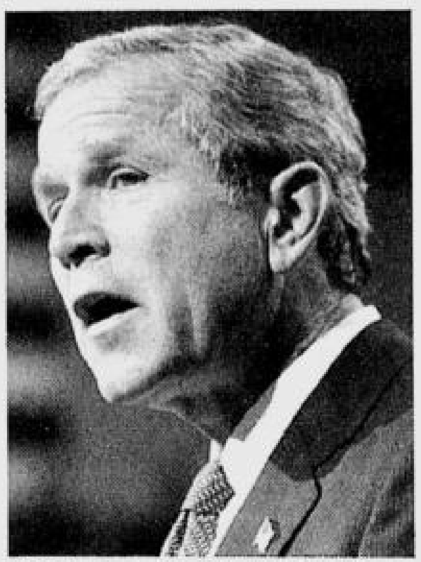
National

War against terror far from over, says Bush

LEXINGTON, Va.—President George W. Bush warned on Wednesday that the war against terrorism was far from over, saying "cells of trained killers" will try to regroup in Afghanistan this spring and that "axis of evil" nations are cultivating ties to terrorist groups.

With the war on terrorism overshadowed in recent weeks by Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed, Bush spoke to cadets at the Virginia Military Institute after a US soldier was wounded in Afghanistan by a shot fired from a crowd in the southern city of Kandahar.

Bush said "good progress" has been made in destroying Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network but that as the spring thaw comes in Afghanistan, "we expect cells of trained killers to try to regroup" to try to disrupt efforts to build a lasting peace there.


BUSH

Bush awoke to a headline in The Washington Post that said the United States had concluded Bin Laden had escaped the Afghan battle for Tora Bora late last year and that failure to commit US ground troops to hunt him was the gravest US error in the war against al-Qaida.

At a news conference in Washington, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld dismissed the report and said he never has had any conclusive evidence of the whereabouts of Bin Laden, whom the United States holds responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks that killed around 3,000 people in New York and Washington.

"We're tough, we're determined, we're relentless. We will stay until the mission is done," Bush said, without mentioning Bin Laden by name.

Bush did mention the recent arrest of an al-Qaida leader, Abu Zabaydah. "He's under lock and key, and we're going to give him some company," the president said. "We're hunting down the killers one by one."

But Bush said it is not enough to defeat al-Qaida and the Taliban, saying true peace in Afghanistan will only come when the battered nation has a stable government, a trained national army, and an education system for boys and girls alike. *Reuters*

Mideast, V'zuela, Afghanistan stymie Bush

By Jonathan Wright

WASHINGTON—The apparent failure of Secretary of State Colin Powell's Middle East mission, the mishandling of a brief coup in Venezuela and slow progress in Afghanistan gave the impression this week the Bush administration's foreign policy was dangerously adrift.

In the Middle East, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat dug in their heels as Powell tried to broker a ceasefire, leaving him little to show for more than a week of hard diplomacy.

Arab governments are fuming at what they see as feeble US intervention while Israel's supporters in the United States fault President George W. Bush for failing to endorse Sharon's West Bank campaign as part of his war on terrorism.

In just a few days in Venezuela, the United States also damaged the image it has tried to cultivate for decades as a force for democracy and the rule of law in Latin America, by failing to condemn a military coup that briefly toppled populist President Hugo Chavez.

In Afghanistan, the promise of security and reconstruction has looked increasingly hollow as Washington-backed interim leader Hamid Karzai fails to expand his sphere of influence much beyond the confines of the capital Kabul.

US forces in Afghanistan appeared to celebrate victory prematurely in December when they drove the Taliban out of power. US officers say they now expect remnants of the Taliban and of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization to step up operations with the approach of summer.

"Suddenly the President who soared by standing on principle seems to have been replaced by an impostor who's lost his foreign-policy bearings," said the conservative Wall Street Journal in an editorial on Wednesday.

"This isn't yet the gang that couldn't shoot straight, but without a course correction it may get there. The Administration that once dominated events now seems hostage to them," added the newspaper.

The Washington Post took Bush to task on Wednesday for ignoring requests for a larger international security force in Afghanistan, where lawlessness has been on the rise.

The remaining dangers in the Central Asian were highlighted on Wednesday, when a US soldier was wounded by a shot fired from a crowd in the southern city of Kandahar, the former stronghold of the vanquished Taliban.

"Mr. Bush has staked his—and America's—prestige on replacing the despotic Taliban regime with something better . . . So far, however, it's not clear that post-Taliban Afghanistan is headed to a better future," it added.

In Venezuela, the coup crumbled in 48 hours when tens of thousands of pro-Chavez supporters rallied and loyal soldiers rebelled against the interim government, embarrassing US officials who had barely contained their glee at the ouster.

Fending off questions it tacitly approved the coup against a leader who befriended Cuban President Fidel Castro, the Bush administration appeared out of step with governments in the region, which urged the restoration of constitutional order. *Reuters*

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Kick out military from politics, OAS tells Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, chastened and promising change after his dramatic two-day ouster in a coup, must start by kicking the military out of politics to restore his democratic credibility, Latin America's top diplomat said on Wednesday.

Cesar Gaviria, secretary general of the Organization of American States, told reporters he saw no risk of a new coup like the one that overthrew Chavez on Friday after a huge anti-government protest when 17 people died, but warned: "There is a risk . . . social unrest will come again soon."

Indeed, opposition leaders, unconvinced that the feisty former paratrooper whom critics say wants to install a Cuban-style regime in the world's No. 4 oil exporter has any intention of changing his autocratic ways, promised as much.

"As long as Chavez remains in power, we will continue the protests," Henry Ramos, president of Accion Democratica, one of Venezuela's main opposition parties, said.

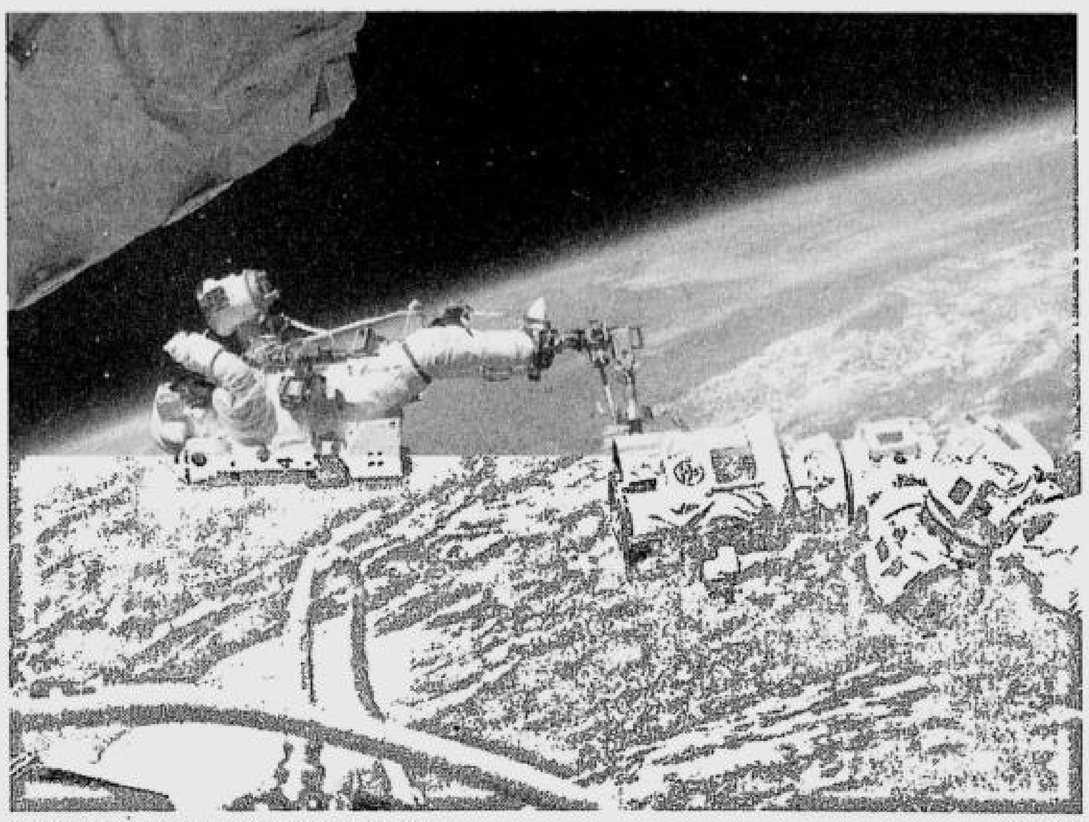
The coup collapsed in a counter-rebellion by loyal troops who reinstated Chavez on Sunday after pro-government protests and widespread looting at the weekend, in which 46 died.

"This tradition that has been established in Venezuela in the last few years that military officers are important protagonists in politics . . . is very unhealthy," Gaviria said.

The coup plotters are under arrest and face likely charges of rebellion and mutiny, said defense lawyer Carlos Bastidas.

"The information we have is that the investigation covers around 80 officials, generals and admirals," he said.

But uniforms still loom large in Venezuela. Chavez has promoted many former comrades and put ministries and key institutions in the hands of officers. *Reuters*



AFP/NASA

TROUBLESHOOTING IN SPACE

US space shuttle Atlantis astronaut Jerry Ross rides the International Space Station's CandaArm2 to move a floodlight into position for the newly-installed S Zero truss April 16. Ross and fellow space walker Lee Morin installed lights and did some troubleshooting during the fourth and final space walk of the mission.

Putin slams Russian government's lack of ambition

MOSCOW—President Vladimir Putin slammed his government on Thursday for failing to set ambitious growth targets for Russia's economy, brushing off warnings from his own Cabinet that higher growth could trigger a crisis.

Putin said that now political stability had been restored in Russia after a turbulent decade of change, improving living standards for its hard-pressed citizens was the key task.

"I have already said that Russia needs more ambitious policies, a higher rate of economic growth," he told a special session of both houses of parliament. State institutions should work together to achieve this, he said.

Putin said the government's current targets showed that present world economic conditions were not enough to guarantee the necessary growth rates and the increase in competitiveness that Russia needed.

Economic Development Minister German Gref, in charge of economic policy, said on Wednesday he believed boosting growth in the short term would only provoke a crisis.

"I believe that the main thing now is to create conditions in which the citizens of Russia can earn money, earn it and, whilst deriving advantage for themselves, invest it in the economy of their own country," Putin said. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
Makati City

AMENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8501

Pursuant to the authority of the Board of Trustees of the Home Development Mutual Fund to make and change needful rules and regulations under Section 13 of Presidential Decree No. 1752, as amended in relation to Section 5 of R.A.8501, Rules III and IV of the Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 8501 are hereby amended in order to give more life and meaning to the Condonation of penalties provided for under R.A. 8501.

Section 1. Rule III of the Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 8501 is hereby amended to read as follows:

RULE III
CONDONATION OF PENALTIES UNDER SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT 8501

Section 1. Who may apply under this rule. Any housing loan borrower or in the event of his death, his heirs or successors-in-interest, who has unpaid penalties on his housing loan with the Fund as of the effectivity of R.A. 8501 and has not yet availed of any previous Condonation program from any government institution or agency involved in the National Shelter Program, may apply for the Condonation of penalties under this Rule. A housing loan borrower or in the event of his death, his heirs or successors-in-interest, who failed or refuse to pay his monthly amortizations due to structurally defective or substandard housing unit and/or subdivisions lacking in basic amenities such as water, light, drainage, good roads and others as required by law, may likewise apply for condonation of penalties under this Rule.

Section 2. Condonation of Penalties after Full Payment. All unpaid penalties of said housing loan shall be condoned after full payment by the housing loan borrower of all due and demandable arrearages composed of the principal and interest.

Section 3. Restructuring and Term of the Loan. The unpaid due and demandable arrearages, ***as well as the litigation/cancellation and other expenses incurred by Pag-IBIG Fund which remain unpaid,*** after partial payment, shall be restructured within the remaining period of the loan.

Section 4. Application of Pag-IBIG Savings or Member's Total Accumulated Value (TAV).

In lieu of the down payment, a delinquent Pag-IBIG housing loan borrower ***who has not previously availed of TAV offsetting*** may opt for the following:

1. Apply at most forty percent (40%) of his TAV to his outstanding housing loan balance if he has an outstanding Pag-IBIG multi-purpose loan (MPL), and has not previously offset his TAV against his MPL.
2. Apply his entire TAV to his outstanding housing loan balance if he has no outstanding MPL. The member shall however, be qualified to avail himself of a multi-purpose loan only after two (2) years.

Section 5. Interest Rate. The interest rate on the restructured loan shall be the rate on the original loan.

Section 6. Effect of Default. In the event of default, the total outstanding housing loan shall immediately become due and demandable.

Section 7. ***Borrowers who avail of loan restructuring may remit their monthly payments for the restructured loans through the salary deduction scheme, the issuance of PDC's on annual basis or over the counter.*** Accommodation checks will also be accepted.

Section 8. Availment procedure.

A. Delinquent Pag-IBIG housing loan borrowers who opt to avail of the Condonation and loan restructuring shall submit the duly accomplished Application Form together with an updated Statement of Account to any Pag-IBIG NCR Branch/ Regional Office.

B. The borrower may opt to apply his TAV to his outstanding loan balance ***in lieu of the down payment.***

C. The loan arrearages to be restructured shall be considered as an additional loan and shall be covered by a new PN. The borrower's ledgers for the original and restructured loan ***shall be consolidated.***

D. Applicants for loan restructuring shall pay the following fees:

   1. Processing Fee of P200.00;
   2. First year's premium for mortgage redemption;
   3. Notarization ***and other related expenses.***

Section 9. ***Filing of Application for Condonation. A housing loan borrower, his assigns or successors-in-interest or in the event of his death, his heirs or their legal representatives may file the application for Condonation under this Rule at anytime. However, only unpaid penalties of the housing loan up to December 31, 2002 shall be subject of condonation.***

Section 2. Rule IV of the Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 8501 is hereby amended to read as follows:

RULE IV
CONDONATION OF PENALTIES ON LOAN OBLIGATION UNDER SECTION 3 OF R.A. 8501

Section 1. Who may Apply for Condonation under this Rule. Any member borrower, or in the event of his death, his heirs, or successors-in-interest, ***who failed to pay as well as those*** who after availing of any previous condonation program of the Fund, failed to pay on time any obligation to the Fund for justifiable reasons may apply for condonation of penalties subject to the requirements or conditions as herein provided.

Section 2. Justifiable Reasons. The following shall be considered as justifiable reasons for failure to pay the required amortization on due date which may allow a delinquent member-borrower to apply for condonation of penalties accrued:

a. Unemployment;

b. Total or partial disability of the member-borrower, as certified by a duly licensed physician, which by reason thereof resulted in his failure to pay the required amortization when due;

c. Illness of the member-borrower or illness or death of any of his immediate family which by reason thereof resulted in his failure to pay the required amortizations when due;

d. Death of the member-borrower which by reason thereof resulted in the failure to pay the amortizations due on the remaining balance of the loan after due application of the Mortgage Redemption Insurance proceeds, if any;

e. Fire that gutted his Pag-IBIG mortgaged property;

f. Failure to pay his monthly amortizations due to structurally defective or substandard housing units and/or subdivisions lacking in basic amenities such as water, light, drainage, good roads and others and as required by law;

g. Failure of the employer to remit to the Fund whatever amortizations due from the employee after deducting/collecting the same from the said employer.

h. Other causes as may be considered as justifiable by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Eligibility of Applicant. To be eligible for penalty condonation under this Rule, the member-borrower or successors-in-interest, applying for penalty condonation shall have an annual family income of not more than Three Hundred Thousand (P300,000.00) Pesos except those applying for condonation of penalties under sub-paragraph (f) of Section 2 hereof.

Section 4. Condonation of Penalties upon Approval of Application. All unpaid penalties on said loan shall be considered condoned upon approval of the borrower's application for loan restructuring.

Section 5. Restructuring of the Loan Balance. ***The unpaid and demandable arrearages, as well as litigation, cancellation and other charges incurred by Pag-IBIG Fund which remain unpaid, after partial payment, shall be restructured within a maximum period of 20 years, provided that the same shall not exceed the difference between the borrower's age and age 65 and shall be paid together with the scheduled amortization for the balance of the original loan in accordance with the terms and conditions of both promissory notes.***

Section 6. Application of Pag-IBIG Savings or Member's Total Accumulated Value (TAV).

In lieu of the down payment, a delinquent Pag-IBIG housing loan borrower ***who has not previously availed of TAV offsetting*** may opt for the following:

1. Apply at most forty percent (40%) of his TAV to his outstanding housing loan balance if he has an outstanding Pag-IBIG multi-purpose loan (MPL), and has not previously offset his TAV against his MPL.
2. Apply his entire TAV to his outstanding housing loan balance if he has no outstanding MPL. The member shall however, be qualified to avail himself of a multi-purpose loan only after two (2) years.

Section 7. Effect of Default. In the event of default, the total outstanding housing loan shall immediately become due and demandable.

Section 8. Loans Eligible for Penalty Condonation. Only loans, which have been in arrears for a period of at least two (2) years, shall be eligible for penalty condonation except those applying for condonation of penalties under sub-paragraph (1) of Section 2 hereof.

Section 9. Limitation of the Availment of Penalty Condonation under this Rule. A member-borrower who had already availed of penalty condonation under this Rule shall forever be disqualified from availing of the penalty condonation during the remaining term of his loan and/or until such loan has been fully settled and paid for in full. This disqualification shall likewise apply to his heirs as well as to his successors-in-interest.

Section 3. All other provisions of the Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 8501 not inconsistent with this amendment shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 4. This amendment shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and the filing of a copy thereof with the Office of the National Administrative Register of the University of the Philippines Law Center.

Section 5. Management is hereby directed to issue the necessary operating guidelines within fifteen (15) days after publication hereof.

Attested by:

(Sgd.) ATTY. WILFREDO E. NUESA
Corporate Secretary

Belgrade names 23 wanted for war crimes

BELGRADE—Yugoslavia's government on Wednesday piled pressure on war crimes suspects, publishing the names of 23 people wanted by The Hague tribunal and calling on them to agree within three days to give themselves up.

The government said it would start a legal procedure ultimately leading to arrests and handovers for those who did not heed its last-ditch appeal and surrender voluntarily.

It was the latest move in a dramatic few weeks in which Belgrade has had its US aid allocation frozen, passed a law to cooperate with the tribunal many Serbs despise and seen an indicted former minister kill himself rather than submit to it.

Among those on the list are two of the world's most wanted men, Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and military chief Ratko Mladic. Neither, however, has shown any readiness to surrender and their whereabouts are not publicly known.

The appeal appeared designed to persuade suspects they had no choice but to surrender in the hope of avoiding unpopular arrest attempts which could also cause bloodshed.

The Socialist Party of former president Slobodan Milosevic, who is already on trial at the tribunal for his role in a decade of Balkan wars which killed hundreds of thousands, condemned Justice Minister Savo Markovic for publishing the list.

"Obviously it was the intention of the minister to mount a campaign against people who have been indicted, completely disregarding the simple fact of whether they are guilty or not," Socialist Party member of parliament Zarko Obradovic said.

The list includes three former close associates of Milosevic indicted along with him on charges of crimes against humanity over mass killings and expulsions of Kosovo Albanians in 1999. *Reuters*

Thousands of Inca mummies found in Peru

WASHINGTON—Thousands of mummies have been found in an Inca cemetery located beneath a shantytown on the outskirts of Lima, Peru, the archaeologists who made the discovery announced here Wednesday.

"We have excavated so far 1,286 mummies and we estimate there might be as many as 10,000 in this cemetery," said the leader of the dig that uncovered the mummies, Guillermo Cock.

The cemetery is believed to have been used to bury two generations of people, in a period believed to span from 1480 to 1535, the Peruvian archaeologist said at a conference organized by the National Geographic Society, which part-financed the dig.

At least three of the mummies were interred during the 10-year period between 1540 and 1550—after the Spanish conquest but before the collapse of the Inca empire in 1572.

"There is no evidence of embalming, which is different from the mummies found in Cusco and dating back to the high period of the Inca Empire. The bodies were naturally desiccated," said Cock.

Some 40 of the mummies were found to be in perfect condition.

The mummies had been fashioned with a 'false head' in place, at times topped with a wig and decorated with jewelry or feathers, giving them a human appearance. Objects such as statuettes, ornaments weapons were found inside and near the mummies.

On some of the bodies, tattoos were still visible on the skin.

Between one and seven individuals were bundled together inside each mummy, made by using bandages and cotton rope. They are thought to have died at different times. *AFP*

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and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Police officials have dismissed any security threat to Pangasinan's premier city even as a homemade bomb was found in a package delivered to the AMA Computer College here on Wednesday.

Supt. Noli Taliño, police chief here, deployed more policemen to school campuses and hastened the conduct of training of personnel on bomb disposal.

Classes were suspended on Wednesday when police found a bomb in a package addressed to the AMA Computer College director. The package was sent by a certain Marissa Delgado of Barangay Tapuac here.

The guard on duty, Lamberto Sevilla, received the package and alerted the police after he heard that something was ticking inside the box.

The police found a timing device connected by a wire to a black canister and a photograph of the owner of AMA Computer College on top of the box.

Taliño detonated the bomb at 2 p.m. Wednesday, three hours after Sevilla received the package.

"LBC people told me that when they asked the sender what was inside the box, the sender said it was a stuff toy," Taliño said.

School officials refused to comment on the incident.

"It was more of a scare tactic. We have not heard of a bomb being sent through a mail delivery system. Terrorists just drop the bombs where they wanted them to explode," Taliño said.

In the capital town of Lingayen, Provincial Administrator Virgilio Solis Jr. described the bomb scare as a ploy by certain sectors "to dramatize their grievances against school officials."

Taliño said he would include lectures on bomb detection during the weekly forum on unity and peace that the city police conduct with various sectors here.

Aurora Samson-Reyna, vice president for academic affairs of the Luzon Colleges, said her school was taking the bomb scare seriously. She said they are discussing plans to secure the school campus.

In Cebu City, workers unearthed on Wednesday a World War II vintage fragmentation bomb at a construction site behind a hotel on Ramos Street this city.

A lawyer, who identified himself to the police as a certain "Ong," informed the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) of the Cebu City Police Office (CCPO) about the bomb that was found by construction workers digging at the back of the Diplomat Hotel.

PO3 Adonis Dumpit, one of the SWAT members who responded to the alarm, said the fragmentation bomb weighed about 10 kilograms and was about 18 inches long.

The bomb was placed in the custody of Senior Supt. Lani-O Nerez, CCPO director. Police said the bomb would be detonated on an empty lot in Minglanilla town, some 15 kilometers south from here.

THE "SCARE" bomb found in Pangasinan.
RAY ZAMBRANO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Luzon and Visayas will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi34° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 27° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 28°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/19/02

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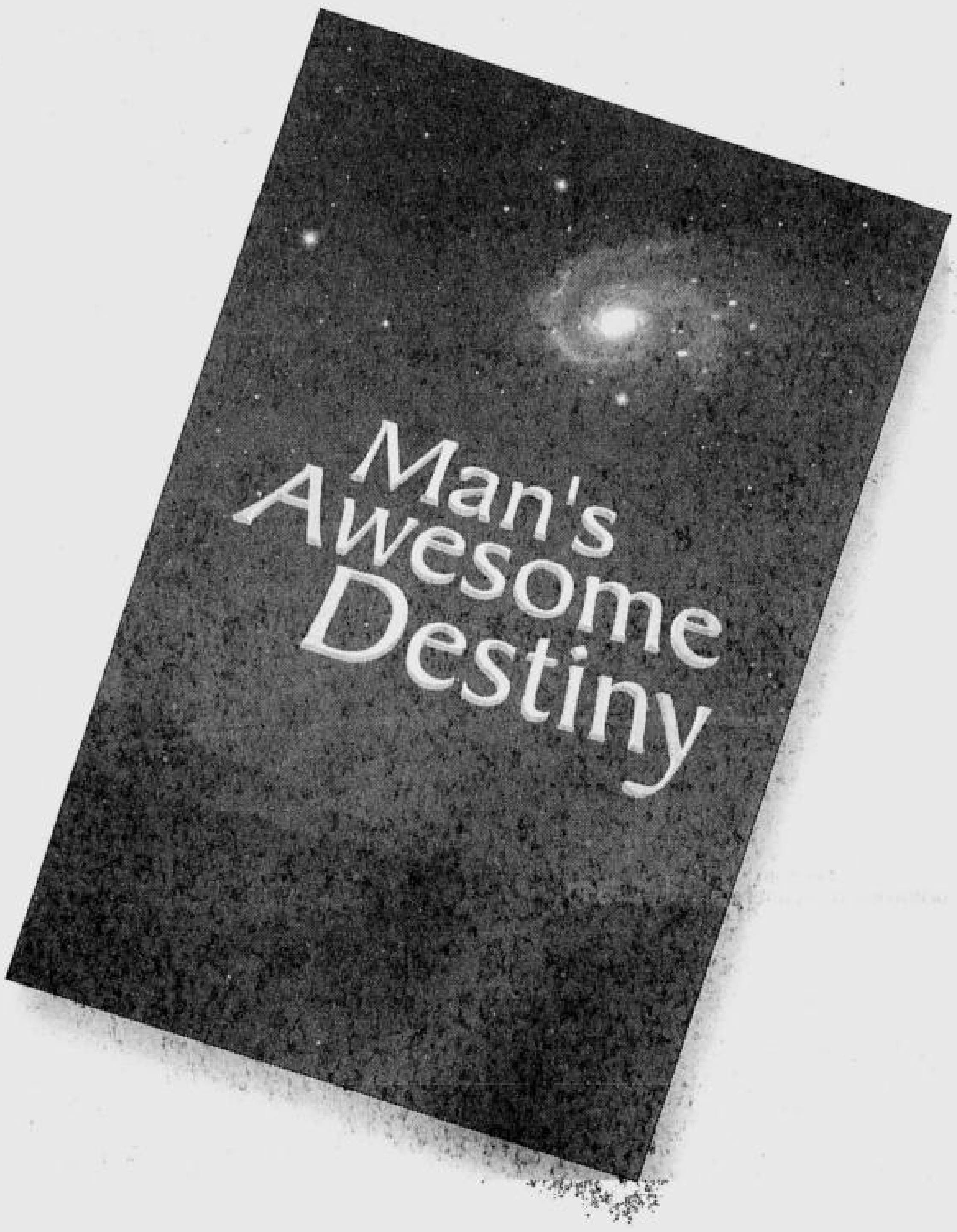

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Mindanao unemployment rate dips, but 627,000 jobless

DAVAO CITY—The bad news is that there are 627,000 Mindanao residents who are jobless as of January.

The good news is that compared to the previous year's figure, the ranks of the unemployed in Mindanao were fewer by 30,000.

According to a survey conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in all of Mindanao's six regions, the island registered an unemployment rate of 8 percent as of January, down from the previous year's 8.7 percent.

Ironically, regions that have experienced erratic peace and order condition were the ones registering an improvement in the employment rate.

The agriculture sector remains to be one of the biggest employers on the island.

Survey

The NSO survey, which was released only yesterday, revealed that Central Mindanao showed a "splendid performance during the month, (which) contributed much, to the improvement of Mindanao's current employment situation."

"From a double-digit rate of unemployment in January 2001, the region evidently experienced an upsurge as unemployment rate this year is registered at only 6 percent," the NSO survey said.

Central Mindanao, particularly the provinces of Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, has been the site of recent clashes between government troops and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

It is also besieged by cases of kidnappings perpetrated by the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group.

Improvement

Iligan City, which moved to Northern Mindanao from Central Mindanao, was able to recover from a very high unemployment rate of 15.6 percent in 2001 to only 7.6 percent this year.

"Even the provinces of Region IX (Western Mindanao) exhibited encouraging employment conditions as the percentage of unemployed persons in the region went down to 6.1 percent in January this year compared to the previous record of 7.3 percent," the survey said.

Basilan

"Notably, it was Basilan (now with the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) that experienced the best employment performance among its provinces and key cities—from an unemployment rate of 7.7 percent in 2001 to only 5.9 percent this year," the survey added.

The NSO survey said with the exception of Southern Mindanao and the Caraga Region, all of Mindanao's regions posted dramatic decreases in unemployment rates.

For Southern Mindanao, the increase in the total unemployment rate was largely contributed by General Santos City, with a 5.5 percent rise in the rate of unemployment from 2001 to 2002.

"Davao City's slight recovery during the year apparently did not have a big impact on the region's overall performance," the survey added. ***Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Flight 541 crash rites in Samal

SAMAL ISLAND—Relatives and friends of the 131 victims of the Air Philippines plane crash in Barangay Camudmud, Babac arrived here to observe the second anniversary of the tragedy today.

Dr. Bong Capitan, president of the Flight 541 Assistance Group Foundation Inc. (FLAG 541), said visitors from as far as Manila were expected to attend the simple activity, dubbed "Takbo, Sikad, Tanim."

Two years after the crash, considered the country's worst air disaster, relatives of the victims are still longing for justice, according to Capitan.

A request for a reinvestigation was never granted, he said.

Capitan said multiple charges have been filed against three Chicago-based companies that sold and transferred the rights of the ill-fated plane to Air Philippines.

The complainants, represented by Sterns and O'Reilly and other law firms, sued AAR Engine Group Inc., Fleet Business Credit Corp. and FKA Sanwa Business Credit Corp. for product liability, negligence, spoliation of evidence or tampering with of evidence.

The relatives also wanted the companies to pay for moral and exemplary damages. ***Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	DC9	0130	0240	P2,899	P2,569	P2,309	P2,199
	5J - 559	Daily	B757	0500	0610			-	
	5J - 559	**Daily**	**B757***	**0500**	**0610**	P3,219	P3,019	P2,899	-
	5J - 561	Daily	DC9	0700	0810	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			-	
	5J - 565	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
*Business Class Available	5J - 571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	DC9	0500	0640	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
	5J - 963	Daily	B757	0930	1110			-	
	5J - 963	**Daily**	**B757***	**0930**	**1110**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 965	Daily	DC9	1300	1440	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
*Business Class Available	5J - 967	Daily	DC9	1600	1740			-	
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,699
	5J - 383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055			-	
	5J - 385	Daily	DC9	1140	1305			-	
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320			-	
	5J - 657	Daily	DC9	1410	1520			-	
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	DC9	0500	0600	P2,779	P2,449	-	P2,199
	5J - 453	Daily	DC9	0720	0820			-	
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	0955	1055			-	
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1600	1700			-	
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	DC9	0610	0710	P2,779	P2,449	-	P2,199
	5J - 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100			-	
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750			-	
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	DC9	0620	0750	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	DC9	0530	0630	P2,539	P2,199	-	P1,999
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	DC9	1340	1450	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	DC9	0900	0950	P2,899	P2,569	-	P2,199
	5J - 341	Daily	DC9	0950	1040			-	
BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily	DC9	1000	1125	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,699

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.*	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	DC9	0500	0610	P2,899	P2,569	P2,309
	5J - 560	Daily	B757	0700	0810			-
	5J - 560	**Daily**	**B757***	**0700**	**0810**	P3,219	P3,019	P2,899
	5J - 562	Daily	DC9	0900	1010	P2,899	P2,569	-
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-
	5J - 566	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-
	5J - 570	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-
*Business Class Available	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010			-
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0800	0850	P2,589	P2,249	-
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1450	1540			-
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	Tu/Th/Sat	DC9	1005	1100	P2,649	P2,319	-
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1750	1825	P2,099	P1,759	-
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1100	1130	P1,879	P1,539	-
CLARK	5J - 588	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1100	1220	P2,995	P2,669	-

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	DC9	0720	0900	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
	5J - 964	Daily	B757	1210	1350			-	
	5J - 964	**Daily**	**B757***	**1210**	**1350**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1520	1700	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,699
*Business Class Available	5J - 968	Daily	DC9	1820	2000			-	
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	0930	1020	P2,589	P2,249	-	P2,049
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1620	1710			-	
ILOILO --via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	DC9	1620	1825	P3,645	P3,195	-	P2,699
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/W/F/Sun	DC9	1010	1110	P2,649	P2,319	-	P2,199

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	DC9	0800	0900	P2,779	P2,449	P2,199
	5J - 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250			
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1220	1250	P1,879	P1,539	P1,399

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
						NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 788	Daily	DC9	1205	1330	P3,645	P3,239

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
						NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 454	Daily	DC9	0900	1000	P2,779	P2,449
	5J - 456	Daily	DC9	1135	1235		
	5J - 460	Daily	DC9	1740	1840		
	5J - 462	Daily	DC9	1905	2005		
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0640	0715	P2,099	P1,759
DAVAO --via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	DC9	0640	0850	P3,645	P3,195

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
						NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510		
	5J - 658	Daily	DC9	1600	1710		

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
						NORMAL	VALUE
CEBU	5J - 589	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1300	1420	P2,995	P2,669

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1150	1320	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699
CEBU	5J - 432	Tu/Th/Sat	DC9	0830	0925	P2,649	P2,319	P2,119
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/W/F/Sun	DC9	0830	0930	P2,649	P2,319	P2,199

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
						NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,645	P3,239
	5J - 384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300		
	5J - 386	Daily	DC9	1345	1510		

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
						NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0710	0810	P2,539	P2,199

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
						NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1530	1640	P2,899	P2,569

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
						NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	DC9	1030	1120	P2,899	P2,569
	5J - 342	Daily	DC9	1120	1210		

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

FROM	TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA
MANILA	HONGKONG	5J - 110	Daily	B757	0700	0900
		5J - 114	Tu/W/Sat	B757	1345	1545
		5J - 118	Daily	B757	1640	1840
HONG KONG	MANILA	5J - 111	Daily	B757	1000	1200
		5J - 115	Tu/W/Sat	B757	1710	1910
		5J - 119	Daily	B757	1940	2140
MANILA	SEOUL	5J - 194	M/F/Sun	B757	1340	1840
		5J - 1944	Th	B757	1340	1840
SEOUL	MANILA	5J - 195	M/F/Sun	B757	1950	2250
		5J - 1955	Th	B757	1950	2250

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Pampanga town residents complain of plane noise

US troops in Clark preparing for war games. DENNIS SABANGAN

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Residents of nearby Mabalacat town have complained of noise from US military planes transporting US troops and equipment to Clark for next week's large-scale RP-US Balikatan exercises in Luzon.

Jose Dayrit, executive secretary to Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales, said the mayor's office has been swamped with complaints from residents who, he noted, have been "irritated with the booming sound of planes getting in and out (since last week)."

Mabalacat, especially the villages of Sta. Ines, Poblacion, San Francisco and Mabiga, is along the flight path of Clark's Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, where the US planes have been landing and taking off almost daily in preparation for the three-week Balikatan 02-2.

The town (pop: 179,000) is outside the perimeter of the 2,500-hectare runway, with the church at the town center serving as the aircraft's unofficial guidepost.

"The noise is not as bad as during the heydays of Clark but since there have not been many US military planes flying here in the last 10 years, we got used to some sense of silence here," Dayrit said.

He said some planes have flown at night or very early in the morning, disturbing the sleep of the residents.

He said many residents have identified the aircraft as mostly cargo types like C-130s.

In this town where military planes frequently refueled or brought casualties from the Vietnam War in the 1960s and the Gulf War in the 1990s, many residents learned to name the types of aircraft by their booms, Dayrit said.

Of late, however, the residents have aired health concerns over the noise, wary of the hearing defects they suffered during the heydays of Clark.

Dayrit said residents had learned to scream at the top of their voices amid the constant din.

He said he would not fault the residents for being sensitive to noise pollution because they have fairly enjoyed relative calm after the Philippine Senate ordered the closure of Clark in 1991.

Dayrit said Morales would raise the issue before the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFAcom).

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information chief of the Philippine Air Force's 600th Air Base Wing, said only a few planes have landed at the airport's south ramp. He said these were C-130 planes and helicopters.

He said not one F-18s or attack planes have arrived and the "sonic boom" that Mabalacat residents might have heard came from the PAF's F-5 fighter planes that have been making "active scrambles."

At least 39 US planes are deployed for the Balikatan training, the biggest since the exercises resumed in 1999 following the VFA ratification by the Senate that same year.

At 7 a.m. Wednesday, the cargo aircraft C-5 Galaxy carrying 52 US air force men arrived, according to Ballesteros. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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NGO exec dies in car crash in Indonesia

BACOLOD CITY—A non-government organization (NGO) executive from Negros Occidental died while four others were injured on Monday night when their vehicle turned turtle in Bandong, Indonesia.

Among the injured was another Filipino NGO worker, also a native of Negros Occidental, and their three Indonesian companions.

Killed in the accident was Pablo "Jun" Braza, 43, of Victorias City, Negros Occidental, project manager for cooperative assistance projects of the Agricultural Cooperative Development International (ACDI) based in Jakarta.

The NGO is affiliated with the Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance.

Among those injured in the vehicle crash was Julio "Nonoy" Labayen, 49, of Bacolod City who also worked for the ACDI.

Labayen's wife, Blanca, said her husband suffered fractured ribs but was already declared by doctors as out of danger.

Dan Braza, brother of Pablo, said he was informed that his brother and his companions were driving back to Jakarta, about five hours' drive southwest of Jakarta, after visiting one of the cooperative projects when a tire of their vehicle burst, causing their vehicle to turn turtle.

Pablo's remains will be brought back to Negros Occidental over the weekend, according to his brother.

Braza had been working in Jakarta for about three years. He was the founding director of the multi-sectoral Alliance for Development-Negros Occidental and consultant in the preparation of the general plan for the Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

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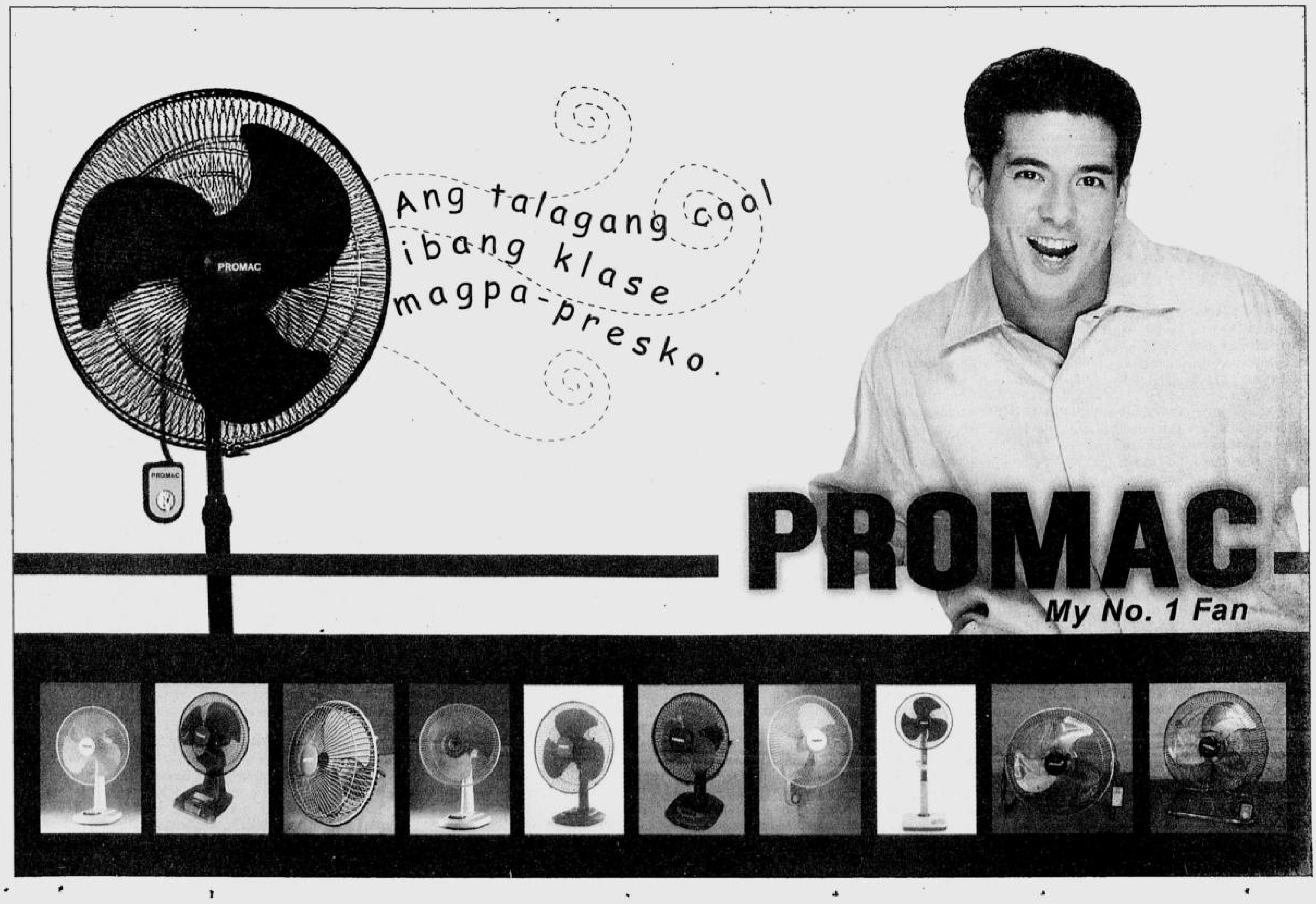

Jancom contract rebidding sought

From page A1

ways taken the position that she will exercise her executive prerogative in line with what she perceives as the national interest."

"And she will continue to do this unless she is restrained by the courts," Afable said in a press briefing.

The high court on April 10 sided with Jancom and affirmed its Jan. 30 ruling that Jancom's contract to put up incinerators in Metro Manila was "valid and perfected."

The Supreme Court, however, declined to pass judgment on whether the contract was advantageous to the government. It also reiterated that the contract needed the President's signature to become effective.

Afable stressed that while the Supreme Court had ruled that the Jancom contract was legal, "the President really has the prerogative to exercise her judgment."

Negative impact

Afable allayed fears that Malacañang's rejection of the Jancom deal would have a negative effect on the country's investment climate.

On the contrary, Afable said "this shows foreign investors that the President is exercising her prerogative in seeing to it that contracts do not suffer from infirmities."

Afable said the President wanted to demonstrate that her administration would recognize only those contracts that "adhere closely to the public interest."

"The President said she has found infirmities in the contract and that there are now other projects on stream which are absorbing solid wastes," Afable said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez also defended the President's decision.

"The President has absolute discretion whether she will sign or not sign the Jancom contract. I'm sure the President will use her discretion and decide for the best interest of our nation," said Perez.

Perez said the Supreme Court had indeed declared the contract valid and legal. "The Supreme Court also stated that it was not passing judgment on whether it was beneficial or prejudicial to our government," he said. So it is not compulsory for the government to honor the deal, according to Perez.

If it is "the President need not sign it. It will just operate even without her signature. The fact that her signature is needed would only indicate that she may or may not sign and therefore, she cannot be forced to sign," the justice secretary said.

Welcomes reevaluation

Jancom welcomes the decision of the President to refer the contract to the MMDA for review before she makes a final decision on the matter, according to Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said the MMDA could enlist the help of a panel of technical and financial experts from both the government and the private sector to conduct a rigid reevaluation of the contract and the project, including the reasonableness of the tipping fee.

"I am confident that Neda (National Economic Development Authority) will find our $32 in tipping fee very reasonable considering that as per Jica (Japan International Cooperation Agency) study, Metro Manila is already spending about $80 per ton under the current inefficient and unsanitary waste collection and disposal system," he said.

P145 per family

The Jancom chair pointed out that the tipping fee would translate into only about P145 a month expense for a family of five.

"Yet our facility employs state-of-the-art technology, cutting edge equipment in the MRFs (materials recovery facilities), and a fleet of vehicles, which will transport on sealed container vans the residual waste to the landfill site," Gonzalez said.

He debunked allegations that Jancom was overpricing its project and will be charging an exorbitant tipping fee.

He pointed out that under the BOT law, Neda would set the maximum rate of return on investment.

"We cannot go beyond that," he said, adding that "Jancom is only concerned with recovering its investment and hopefully realize a modest profit," Gonzalez said.

He said Jancom and Vivendi would be investing more than $150 million for the sanitary landfill facility, the transfer or recycling facilities, the transport fleet, and the post-operation and maintenance of the landfill site.

In the House, Misamis Oriental Rep. Augusto Baculio said the decision over the huge contract was not up to the MMDA because under Republic Act No. 9003, the Solid Waste Management Act of 2001, the MMDA was just an implementing agency of the Solid Waste Management Commission (SWMC).

New bidding

"There has to be a new bidding," Baculio said.

He said the SWMC is the body in charge of making policy on the disposal and management of solid waste.

The MMDA is one of the members of the SWMC, which is headed by the environment secretary. Other members of the commission are the departments of health and of public Works and the chairs of the Senate and House ecology committees.

Baculio represents the House in the commission. "This is an entirely new set-up. There are new rules concerning waste collection and disposal," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Baculio said that in view of the President's refusal to sign the Jancom deal, the congressional oversight committee of the SWMC should meet to draft the new rules of a new contract.

"That is mandated under Section 60 (of RA 9003)," he said. The oversight committee of the SWMC has yet to meet to draft the implementing rules of RA 9003 for lack of funds.

He said that under RA 9003, the oversight committee shall draw up the IRR within a year of the law's effectivity. He called on the President to allocate a budget for the commission.

Irrelevant

The Jancom garbage contract will be rendered irrelevant and obsolete if the Clean Air Act and Ecological Solid Waste Management Act are implemented, an environmental group said.

"Instead of focusing on the legality of the contract, let's focus on whether it is appropriate at this time," said Ester Perez de Tagle of the Citizens Coalition Against Pollution.

She said implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act would solve the "garbage mess" because a particular barangay would be responsible for its own waste.

The law requires the creation of an MRF, or eco-center system, in every barangay for the systematic segregation of biodegradable waste from non-biodegradable waste.

MRFs also compost biodegradable waste and recycle non-biodegradable waste by sending this back to the factories.

"Residual, toxic and hazardous wastes are supposed to be the responsibility of the municipality. But according to the Jancom contract, the company cannot touch residual, toxic and hazardous waste. So what kind of waste can they collect now?" Perez de Tagle said.

She said this would result in the needless spending of taxpayers' money. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa and Criselda Yambot***

Erap marks 'very memorable' 65th . . .

From page A1

Tatad; Former Estrada Cabinet members Mario Tiaoqui, Alberto Romualdez, and Lenny de Jesus; his former defense counsels Serafin Cuevas and Jay Flaminiano; losing Partido ng Masa senatorial bet Jamby Madrigal.

Estrada's show biz gang included Fernando Poe Jr. and wife Susan Roces, Rudy Fernandez, Philip Salvador, Ronnie Rickets, Rez Cortez, and film director Eddie Romero and producer Armida Siguion Reyna.

As expected, security was tight particularly for TV crews who were barred from taking footages. Armed guards manned the rooftop of nearby buildings.

Jovial

Clad in a light blue jacket and dark blue pants, Estrada was in a jovial mood throughout the affair as he received a stream of guests with his wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

Among his birthday wishes, Estrada singled out a longer life for his wheelchair-bound mother, Mary, who will turn 97 next month. She sat next to him during Mass, later planting a kiss on his cheek as the guests sang "Happy Birthday."

Thanking his well-wishers at the end of the Mass, Estrada said he was overcome with joy to see them and their continuing support.

"The trials I am experiencing now makes me stronger in faith, and in faith I am closer to God," he said. "Through your support, the truth will eventually come out and prevail."

Estrada was referring to his continuing claim that he had not resigned, and that he is still the president on leave.

'Democrazy'

In the April 25,2002 issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review, Estrada said that he "takes solace in comparing himself with former United States President Bill Clinton."

"He made his wife a senator. I made my wife a senator," the newsmagazine quotes the ex-President. "He was impeached. I was impeached. But Clinton was fortunate that Americans religiously follow their Constitution. Here, we don't have democracy. Instead, it's *democrazy*."

Upon Ramirez's bidding, Estrada's guests raised their hands toward Estrada and prayed over him. He also asked the crowd to ask God to give the ousted leader "the power to accept Your will."

Prayers were also offered for Estrada by the secretary general of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Msgr. Hernando Coronel. He advised him to attend to his spiritual well-being.

At mercy of Filipinos

The advice of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is for Estrada to "throw himself at the mercy of the court and at the mercy of the Filipino people after all, we have all the evidence."

BARRED from entering the premises of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where they hope to greet their idol on his 65th birthday, Estrada loyalists try to reason out with the police sentry.
VAL HANDUMON

He advised Estrada to change his plea of not guilty to guilty. He also defended Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's decision to deputize justice prosecutors and officials from the solicitor general's office to help in the prosecution of Estrada in the Sandiganbayan.

"They still are part of the Department of Justice," said Perez who stressed that even the court had allowed other government officials to help prosecute Estrada as long as they are involved in prosecutorial jobs.

The man who triggered Estrada's downfall, Luis "Chavit" Singson was tight-lipped about his former drinking buddy.

"I better not discuss them," he said when asked how it was like in the glory days when Estrada had a birthday.

"I wish him good luck," Singson told the INQUIRER by telephone from China where he is attending a world trade fair.

Singson sparked the ouster of Estrada after he exposed his good friend's alleged kickbacks from jueteng and the tobacco excise taxes. ***With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Armand Nocum***

Breast milk . . .

From page A1

dioxins in breast milk samples collected from residents of the Payatas dump were beyond the tolerable limit set by the World Health Organization.

"The levels found were such that if this mother's milk were cow's milk, its sale would not be allowed in the Netherlands," said Von Hernandez of Greenpeace International.

Hernandez said the samples carried levels of dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that were comparable to those in the breast milk of women in highly industrialized countries.

Dioxins are unwanted byproducts of industrial processes such as the incineration and open burning of municipal, medical and hazardous wastes; coal-firing in power plants; smelting of metals; manufacture of chlorine-bleached paper; and production of certain pesticides, other toxic chemicals and plastics like PVC.

In 1997, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a division of the WHO, concluded that dioxins cause cancer in humans, including breast cancer in women.

But breast milk is still the perfect food for babies and a source of important immunities, said Mercy Fabros, advocacy and campaign coordinator of WomanHealth Philippines.

"Although dioxins have been found in breast milk, we still believe that the many benefits of nursing far outweigh most risks," she said.

Fabros said the urgent task was "to identify the sources of these contaminants that are ending up in breast milk, and take the necessary steps to stop any additional exposures."

"There is no other choice—breast milk has to be toxin-free," she added.

Infants

The milk samples were analyzed in Japan for the presence of persistent organic pollutants, including PCBs and ultra-toxic dioxins.

Hernandez said the results of the study indicated that the infants of these women had ingested, through breast milk, dioxins of about 28 picograms, as against the WHO's established tolerable daily intake of 1-4 picograms.

He said the presence of dioxins in their mothers' milk also indicated that the infants had been exposed to these dangerous substances starting from their conception.

"This pre-birth exposure can result in irreversible changes in fetal development," he said.

The two groups called on the Senate to immediately ratify the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to which the Philippines is a signatory.

The document, drawn up to eliminate an initial 12 substances including PCBs, dioxins and furans, says the incineration of waste is a major source of dioxins, and suggests alternative techniques of waste management.

Grave trespass

WomanHealth national coordinator Ana Maria Nemenzo said the presence of dioxins in breast milk "represents a grave and unacceptable trespass against women."

"A woman's body is the first environment for our children, and we must keep it free from these toxic assaults," Nemenzo said.

Hernandez said the study team had also collected breast milk samples from three women living in another impoverished area—Leveriza, Pasay City.

He said the same dioxin rates were found, indicating that the contamination "could be widespread." But he pointed out that the small number of samples rendered the finding inconclusive.

The study also covered women living in Chennai in India and Phnom Penh in Cambodia, both of which have dumping sites of municipal wastes.

According to the documents, comparative results showed that the total toxic equivalents of dioxin-related compounds in the milk of Cambodian and Filipino women were relatively low at 10 and 9.4, respectively. Those found in Indian women were the highest at 25, which was comparable to those found in Japanese, American and Canadian women.

Gerald G. Lacuarta

House to probe Manila Hotel debt

From page A1

Insurance System will be summoned to a hearing by the House committee on good government to explain why the P600-million loan extended to Manila Hotel remains unpaid.

Gonzalez yesterday said that while the loan was extended to Manila Hotel before Emilo Yap's takeover of the hotel from the GSIS during the Ramos administration, the present management must explain why the debt had not been settled.

Gonzalez said the GSIS clearly considered the present Manila Hotel owners liable for the loan because GSIS president Winston Garcia had told him that the GSIS had sent a series of demand letters but the "imperious Yap refused to pay."

Gonzalez said the present Manila Hotel management reportedly sought the opinion of the government corporate counsel on whether the new management was liable for the loans granted before its takeover.

"So eventually, we have to ask the government corporate counsel because this is such a big loan. We want to know what happened to the loan," Gonzalez said.

The House committee is investigating loans granted by government financial institutions to public and private personalities and entities but which have remained uncollected.

The inquiry was prompted by Gonzalez's House Resolution No. 100, which was adopted by the entire House plenary.

During the initial consideration of the resolution on April 16, Gonzalez mentioned in his sponsorship speech the outstanding GSIS loans to the Yap-owned Manila Hotel and businessman Dante Tan, a crony of former President Joseph Estrada.

Big guns

Since other legislators wanted to widen the investigation, Isabela Rep. Antonio Abaya, committee vice chair, proposed that the committee concentrate on the "two big guns," Yap and Tan, due to lack of time.

A Manila Hotel lawyer yesterday said in the Yap-owned Manila Bulletin "that Yap and the companies under him never borrowed from GSIS or any government financial institution as falsely and maliciously reported by a broadsheet tabloid."

The Yap-owned newspaper quoted GSIS vice president Mer Nilo Racimo as saying that the GSIS never granted Yap any loan and that the GSIS could not have sent a series of demand letters to Yap because the matter was still with the government corporate counsel.

Not personal loan

The statements made it appear that the loan was a personal loan by the GSIS to Yap when it was clearly stated by Gonzalez in the hearing and in the INQUIRER report that it was a loan to the Yap-owned Manila Hotel.

The report and Gonzalez also did not say that the loan was granted to Manila Hotel under its present owners.

Gonzalez and other congressmen used the term "behest loans" during the hearing.

He contradicted Racimo's statement in the Manila Bulletin that the GSIS did not send a demand letter to the Yap-owned Manila Hotel. "I have the letter of Winston Garcia," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, in his sponsorship speech during the committee hearing last Tuesday, said that he wrote Garcia inquiring about the Manila Hotel loan.

The deputy speaker said he got a "curt reply" that GSIS tried to collect from Yap but the businessman refused to pay up.

The report that came out in the INQUIRER was a faithful and accurate account of the committee on good government's hearing on April 16.

The committee's main agenda was the continuing investigation of the tax credit scam but Rep. Ruy Elias Lopez, committee chair, suggested that Gonzalez's resolution be taken up first because the deputy speaker had other matters to attend to.

Gonzalez took several minutes to explain why he was seeking the inquiry and why he specifically cited Yap for the Manila Hotel loan and Tan.

Other congressmen wanted to investigate as many behest loans as possible but Rep. Oscar Moreno said the committee has limited time because the 12th Congress adjourns in June this year.

On Moreno's motion, the committee agreed to investigate uncollected loans of P50 million and above. It was then that Abaya called on the committee to give priority to the investigation of Yap and Tan.

Pagcor plans . . .

From page A1

operations and management later this year.

"The Pagcor Academy will be a pioneer in the Philippines and in the world," Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino said in a statement.

Genuino said the Pagcor Academy "will support the development goals of President Macapagal-Arroyo in generating much-needed revenues through the productive employment of Filipinos."

The academy will also offer short-term courses for croupiers in popular casino games such as blackjack, baccarat, roulette, craps, *pai-gow* and poker, as well as non-degree programs for tellers, casino accountants, bingo managers, building administrators and security personnel.

Courses in casino marketing, customer service, bartending-waiting, and hotel management will also be available, the statement said.

"At the moment, we are busy networking with universities and colleges offering courses in hotel and restaurant management to include in their existing curricula a subject on casino management," Pagcor Academy senior manager Josefina Reyes said.

Pagcor already offers short-term courses in card dealing and related subjects to employees of cruise ships.

Casinos are a major source of revenue for the cash-strapped government, but the influential Catholic Church is expected to protest the plan to set up an academy.

Last year, Pagcor earned P17.5 billion, making it the government's biggest non-tax revenue income earner. The corporation, which has more than 10,000 employees, plans to put up a $15-billion gaming and entertainment center called Theme Park Manila on a 250-hectare property on Roxas Boulevard.

Genuino noted the potential of the gaming industry in bringing in foreign exchange. Filipino gaming personnel are increasingly sought and recognized around the world as the most friendly and competent, according to the Pagcor chair.

He said Filipinos could be found working as managers, dealers and technicians on cruise ships of Europe, Asia and America as well as in land-based casinos of Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Reno, Macau and Australia. ***With a report from AFP***

US rights group slams Israeli army in report

From page A1

views with more than 50 witnesses to four separate raids on Palestinian settlements conducted between Oct. 24, 2001 and March 31, 2002.

The report was issued as US Secretary of State Colin Powell headed home empty-handed from his Middle East peace mission after failing to secure an Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire to end 18 months of bloodshed.

But a senior State Department official said Powell could return to the Middle East to follow up on his mission within two or three weeks.

"It's going to be the early to mid-part of May when you look at the situation," the official told reporters at Ireland's Shannon airport, where Powell stopped over on his way home.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the exact dates of Powell's return would be determined by progress made on the ground by William Burns, US assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs.

But Peter Bourkhaerdt, a senior HRW researcher for emergency situations who led the investigation on the Israeli army's conduct, said international conventions continued to be violated "in more or less every raid conducted by the Israeli army on the West Bank."

"The IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) must stop using civilians in these very dangerous and inappropriate roles," Bourkhaerdt told Agence France Presse. "They are placing civilians in serious risk."

He said only Russian forces in the separatist Muslim republic of Chechnya had been known to engage in similar practices in recent years.

Preposterous

The Israeli army gruffly dismissed the HRW allegations.

"We do not need to use civilians to help the IDF," said army spokesperson Isaac Greenburg. "Under no circumstances do we use, or will we ever use, civilians to help us. The very idea, the very allegations are preposterous."

But the HRW noted that the army had turned down repeated interview requests for its report. It said the Israeli government was taking a dangerous approach by turning a blind eye to mounting evidence of military abuses.

"We don't think that issuing blanket denials to these allegations is an adequate response. I think that they should be investigating these abuses rather than dismissing them outright," Bourkhaerdt said.

"In each of the four cases investigated by Human Rights Watch, the IDF compelled civilians with threats and intimidation to identify the houses of individuals wanted for questioning or arrest," the report says.

The army, it says, then forced civilians "to walk with IDF soldiers, sometimes during live fire exchanges, to knock at the doors of those houses and to ask the inhabitants to open the door and come out."

The report says this practice immediately places the life of Palestinians under threat because their fellow villagers and local authorities then identify them as Israeli "informers."

Several such informers have been executed by militant Palestinian groups.

Breaking down doors

The HRW study focused on Israeli raids on the West Bank of Beit Rima, Salfit and Artas, and the town of Tulkarem.

In the Beit Rima raid of Oct. 24, the HRW quoted a woman named Radi Yusuf Ahmad Hajjaj as saying the Israeli army "broke down the door of my house, took my husband, and compelled him to assist them in carrying out arrests."

In Salfit, Amal, a 30-year-old nurse reported that Israeli soldiers pointed a gun at her son and threatened her husband. "They told him they would take his wife and children hostage and kill them if he did not do what they say," she said.

According to the report, Israeli troops demolished dozens of buildings with civilians still inside in Tulkarem, while in Artas at least one civilian was shot after initially failing to lead soldiers to his brother, a suspected militant.

An Israeli soldier shot Ahmad al-Yas Aysh "in the upper leg in order to pressure his brother to surrender to IDF forces," the report says.

It urges Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government to conduct its own investigations, noting that the army was enforcing "collective punishment" in reprisal for Palestinian suicide bombing attacks in Israel.

"The IDF's seizure and treatment of a civilian in order to force a wanted Palestinian to surrender amounts to hostage taking" by the Israeli troops, the HRW wrote.

"It is a serious violation of basic norms regulating international and internal conflict," the HRW said. "It is a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and, as such, a war crime."

Unresolved

Powell was unable to wrest a truce despite six days of shuttling between Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

He told a Jerusalem press conference he was returning to Washington with "fundamental questions" unresolved, and again urged Israel to end its army offensive in the West Bank and the Palestinians to stop militant attacks.

Burns, who accompanied Powell on his mission, stayed behind to meet Israeli and Palestinian officials.

US special Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni, who left the region to attend his daughter's wedding, was expected to return shortly. US Central Intelligence Agency chief George Tenet may also travel to the region soon.

Final hours

The final hours of Powell's mission descended into chaos as the Palestinians charged him with "false promises" about an Israeli withdrawal from their devastated territory, which they insisted must come before any truce deal.

"For the people and leaders of the Palestinian Authority, the question is whether violence and terrorism can be renounced forever, and whether your sights can be set squarely on peace through negotiations," Powell said.

Faced with the angry Palestinian response and questions about the failure of his mission, Powell did not speak to reporters traveling with him as he made his way home via Ireland where his plane was refueled.

As for Israel, he said before leaving: "The question is whether the time has come for a strong, vibrant state of Israel to look beyond the destructive impact of (Jewish) settlements and occupation, both of which must end." *AFP*

Palestinians begin burying Jenin dead

JENIN REFUGEE CAMP—Hana Abu Jandal pushed past people until she reached a mound of bright orange dirt in the hospital's back yard.

Her face creased as she began to scream: "Where is he? How could you bury him? I want to see him! I want to see him!"

Her fury quickly turned into hysteria as she fell to her knees crying, her dark blue headscarf touching the sand covering the temporary burial plot for her husband and others killed during the Israeli takeover of Jenin refugee camp.

In a week-long battle that ended April 11, Israeli soldiers fought Palestinians armed with rifles and bombs.

The Israelis lost 23 soldiers and said most of the Palestinian casualties were gunmen. The Palestinians spoke of a massacre of civilians.

It was the first day residents of the camp were able to come to the nearby hospital to look for relatives. On Wednesday, Israeli military vehicles that had surrounded the building withdrew.

Hospital employees had quickly put many of the bodies, already decayed, into makeshift graves. Medics said 23 were buried in the hospital's grounds.

Earlier Wednesday, Palestinians buried another five in the camp's hilltops.

Israel said it would begin pulling troops out of Jenin and the refugee camp within days. By Wednesday evening the army had lessened its presence in the camp, although several patrols were seen in alleyways.

Residents with shovels worked through the center of the camp, which looked like an earthquake zone. Palestinian workers from Jenin's municipality brought in two bulldozers to begin sifting through the wreckage.

Chopped-up human remains lay along the side of one alleyway. Flies and worms crawled over the mangled flesh before Palestinian Red Crescent workers placed the pieces into a white plastic bag and loaded them onto a trailer.

Elsewhere in the camp, a youth carried a pair of black jeans tied in a bundle. For journalists, he unwrapped it to reveal a child's foot, burnt black.

"He's with God now, it's all right, don't cry," said one woman, shaking Hana Abu Jandal by the shoulders.

Abu Jandal kept her head on the ground, weeping: "I want to see him." *AP*

AP reporter recalls 20-hour detention

Editor's Note—Mohammed Daraghmeh, 38, an Associated Press stringer since 1996, was taken into custody as Israeli troops conducted mass detentions in the West Bank city of Nablus. Israel has arrested more than 4,000 Palestinians for questioning over the past three weeks, and while many have been released, about 1,200 are expected to remain in custody and may face charges. Here is his story.

NABLUS, West Bank—It was 10:30 p.m., and I was in custody at an Israeli army base—roused from my bed hours earlier and detained, despite my protests that I was a reporter, with dozens of other Palestinian men.

A soldier called my name and my spirits lifted—I knew I would be released. What I didn't know was how much real danger was ahead.

After being held handcuffed and blindfolded for 20 hours, part of a sweep in which dozens were detained before dawn Tuesday in the West Bank city of Nablus, I was led to the camp gate, given a letter saying I had been freed and told to go.

But I faced a major problem: I was at least 10 kilometers from the home I shared with my wife and three sons in Nablus, which is under strict curfew. Israeli troops were positioned all along my route.

I thought about asking to stay at the base until morning, then decided against it and began walking.

I went about 180 meters before encountering soldiers at a checkpoint. Four trained their rifles on me and the fifth approached and checked my ID document and the letter I had received.

I was allowed to pass. But after 270 meters, shooting erupted nearby, though I couldn't pinpoint the location.

With my hands raised, I rushed back toward the soldiers at the checkpoint, who were not involved in the shooting, and explained I was afraid I would be shot.

The response was icy.

"So what?" the soldier said. "It's your city. Don't you know what's going on in your city?"

I was ordered to move 180 meters from the checkpoint, while they checked with their commanders. I waited in the darkness for three hours as more than a dozen tanks passed by.

Each time, I would hold up my hands, a soldier would pop out of the tank top, his gun pointed at me, and ask what I was doing there.

About 2 a.m., the soldiers summoned me back to the checkpoint and ordered me to leave. I protested that it was too dangerous.

"I'm afraid I'll be shot," I said.

"If you stay here, I'll shoot you," the soldier said, looking completely serious.

I started down the road again and after about a half-mile, I knocked at a Palestinian home and was greeted by an elderly man, who gave me coffee and a mattress on his floor.

I was up at 7 a.m. Wednesday, thanked my host and began walking. After a few kilometers, on a deserted street in Nablus, I encountered several tanks.

The soldiers ordered me to take off my jacket, my shirt and finally, to drop my pants, so they could see I had no weapons.

They took my identity card and my letter from the army, and asked why I was released Tuesday but still hadn't gone home. I began telling my story, but the soldier cut me off.

"All you Palestinians claim you are innocent, but all of you are killers," the soldier said. "You hate us. You dream of throwing us into the sea."

I told him it wasn't true, that I have many Israeli friends, and often work with Israeli journalists.

After about an hour, I was given a stick with a white flag and told to keep walking.

A little while later, I saw some journalist friends driving on the street. They gave me a phone to call my family and, finally, a ride home.

My wife was desperate with worry because The Associated Press told her Tuesday night that I had been released, but she hadn't heard from me.

When I reached my building, my sons, ages 12, 10 and 6, greeted me with hugs. One by one, my neighbors came to my apartment, anxious to know when their sons and fathers would be returning.

About 35 of us had been rounded up in the sweep on my five-story apartment block—awakened at 3 a.m. by the roar of Israeli armored personnel carriers and ordered outside in pajamas and slippers. *AP*

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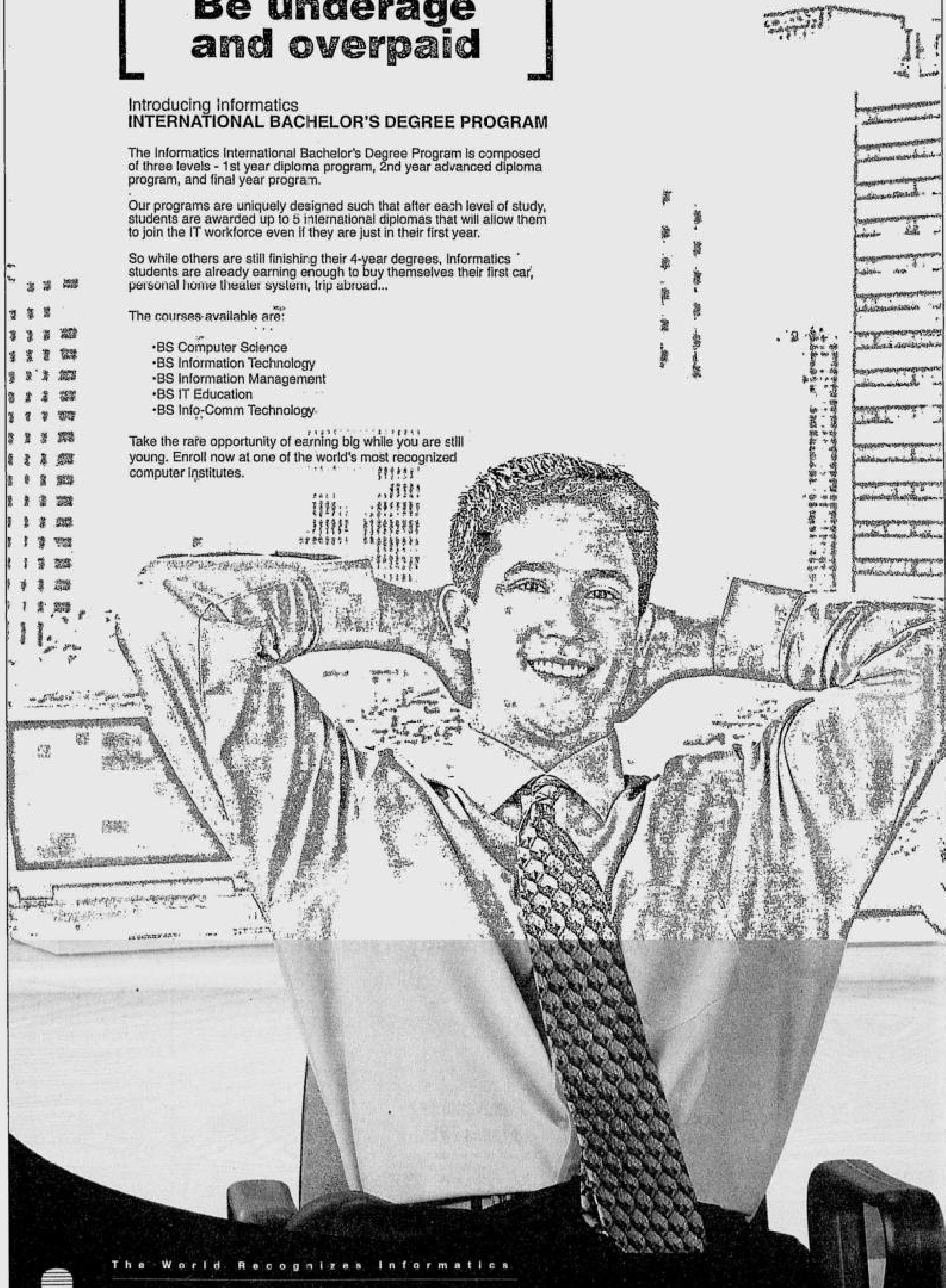

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

A.M. No. 02-2-07-SC

RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 5, RULE 110 OF THE REVISED RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

RESOLUTION

Acting on the Memorandum dated 2 February 2002 of Court Administrator Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr. submitting for this Court's consideration and approval the proposed amendment to Sec. 5, Rule 110 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Court Resolved to APPROVE the amendment to Sec. 5, Rule 110 so as to read as follows:

> "***Section 5. Who must prosecute criminal actions.*** -- All criminal actions either commenced by complaint or by information shall be prosecuted under the direction and control of a public prosecutor. In case of heavy work schedule of the public prosecutor or in the event of lack of public prosecutors, the private prosecutor may be authorized in writing by the Chief of the Prosecution Office or the Regional State Prosecutor to prosecute the case subject to the approval of the court. Once so authorized to prosecute the criminal action, the private prosecutor shall continue to prosecute the case up to the end of the trial even in the absence of a public prosecutor, unless the authority is revoked or otherwise withdrawn.
>
> xxx xxx xxx."

This amendment to Rule 110 shall take effect on the first day of May 2002 following its publication in two newspapers of general circulation on or before 30 April, 2002.

April 10, 2002.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice

JOSUE N. BELLOSILLO
Associate Justice

JOSE A.R. MELO
Associate Justice

REYNATO S. PUNO
Associate Justice

JOSE C. VITUG
Associate Justice

SANTIAGO M. KAPUNAN
Associate Justice

VICENTE V. MENDOZA
Associate Justice

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN
Associate Justice

LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
Associate Justice

CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
Associate Justice

SABINO R. DE LEON, JR.
Associate Justice

ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ
Associate Justice

ANTONIO T. CARPIO
Associate Justice

300 US Seabees just waiting for signal to land in Basilan

From page A1

the Department of Foreign Affairs were still discussing the rules.

"We hope it is resolved within the week," Golez said when asked how long the US troops on USS Germantown would have to wait.

Amendment to TOR

The Department of Justice favors amending the terms of reference (TOR) of the Balikatan 02-1 to accommodate the additional US troops in Mindanao.

Extending the Balikatan 02-1 beyond July is legal since the exercise is covered by the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), according to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

"There is no legal issue here. What we'll do is to amend the TOR. The government will also disclose this to show there is no violation (of law) here," he said in a press conference.

The law only prohibits the deployment of foreign troops unless this is covered by a treaty ratified by the Philippine Senate, according to Perez.

He said the Balikatan "is pursuant to . . . the VFA, which has been ratified. Then it can be allowed."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier said there was no need to draft a new TOR for the extension of the exercises. She said amending the TOR would do. The President said she was in favor of the extension because the residents of Basilan were asking for it.

But Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona had said that he would not sign any document extending Balikatan 02-1 because it was neither covered by the VFA nor by the Mutual Defense Treaty.

Guingona has objected to the Balikatan 02-1 from the start. He relented only after a TOR was crafted limiting the number of US troops to 660 and the duration of the exercise to six months, from January to July.

Nation-building

US Defense Officials said the $3.9-million construction program, which also includes digging fresh water wells and improving a causeway, was meant to support the American forces.

Though the infrastructure improvements clearly will be a long-term benefit to Filipinos, the comments of the senior defense officials are meant to discourage the thinking that the Bush administration is getting involved in nation-building, which it has said it opposes.

Rumsfeld also has said repeatedly that he wants to get the military out of non-military tasks, such as the two-decade-old peacekeeping job in the Sinai.

The deployment of the 600 Americans to the Philippines in January was the first known expansion of the US military effort against terrorism outside Afghanistan, where the six-month war is concentrating on Osama bin Laden's operatives and former Taliban rulers who harbored them.

Since then, US officials also have said they will send military trainers to Yemen and the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

The administration has said that there are al-Qaida cells in 50 to 60 countries and that it will be working with different countries in different ways to try fight them. ***Reports from AP, Martin P. Marfil and Michael Lim Ubac***

2 clueless Japanese tourists wander into Bethlehem war zone

From page A1

the church was the center of an Israeli siege of armed Palestinians.

Makano said he and his girlfriend, Mina Takahashi, had been dropped off by a taxi at a checkpoint near Bethlehem and had made their way along streets torn up by armored vehicles.

In the past, tourists flocked to the church built on the spot believed by Christians as the birthplace of Jesus.

Apart from souvenir vendors, Palestinians normally paid little attention to visitors. But on Wednesday, local women and children simply gazed at the two Japanese tourists in stark disbelief.

Two Palestinians were shot and wounded Wednesday by Israeli soldiers inside the church compound, witnesses said.

They said a man was shot as he moved from one courtyard to another inside the compound. The unidentified man was believed seriously wounded.

Later, 14-year-old Thaher Manasra was lightly wounded in the leg by an Israeli bullet, the witnesses said.

About 200 armed Palestinians dashed into the Church of the Nativity on April 2, evading Israeli soldiers involved in a military campaign to find Palestinians behind deadly attacks on Israelis.

With the standoff on its 16th day, Bethlehem Mayor Hana Nasser said he would ask Pope John Paul II to come to Bethlehem and seek a solution.

Nasser said Israeli and Palestinian officials were to meet Thursday to try to negotiate an end to the standoff but that he was not hopeful for a solution.

"If we cannot reach a reasonable agreement (with the Israelis) that could guarantee and protect those inside the church, I have no other choice but to invite the holy father, the Pope, to visit Bethlehem in order to save the mother of churches, the Church of the Nativity," the mayor said.

Far apart views

Israel, the Palestinians and Christian religious leaders appear far apart in their views on how the standoff should be resolved.

Leaders of the many Catholic, Orthodox and evangelical churches in Jerusalem proposed their solution Saturday to then visiting US Secretary of State Colin Powell—a three-day Israeli withdrawal from the city to allow the armed men inside the church, including Palestinian police and militiamen, to lay down their weapons and go home.

Israel has said the armed men must either face trial in Israel or accept being sent into exile in another Arab country—an offer the Palestinians are unwilling to accept.

Israel has pledged not to storm the 1,600-year-old church. But there have been periodic gunfire exchanges in the past two weeks, most recently Tuesday night, when tracer bullets and flares lighted up the sky.

Palestinians inside the church said two rooms of the Greek Orthodox section of the compound caught fire, but nobody inside the compound was hurt.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, speaking after a meeting Wednesday with Powell, condemned Israel for the siege of the church.

"What (about) these shameful attacks on the Nativity Church, who can accept it internationally?" Arafat said. "Who can accept this against these very holy sacred places?"

Teenager's story

Inside the church, conditions are grim, according to a Palestinian teenager who spent two weeks inside before Israeli soldiers caught him sneaking out Monday.

Jihad Abdel Rahman, speaking to The Associated Press at his home in the Dheisheh refugee camp just outside Bethlehem, said he was questioned and released Tuesday.

He had gone to the church to look for friends the day after the armed Palestinians took refuge inside, when it was still possible to get in. He was sent out to buy food and decided on returning in the evening to stay overnight.

By the next morning, when he wanted to go home, Israeli forces had blocked all routes out, he said.

After two weeks, Abdel Rahman decided to take his chances and scale a wall to get out.

"It was so cold in the night with little food to eat, so I decided to leave the Church of the Nativity," said the teenager, who looks younger than his 16 years.

Food was running out, he said, adding that people shared a plate of spaghetti or rice once a day.

He said the armed men inside had split into two groups, half of them sleeping at night and half standing guard.

The Palestinian policemen are armed with AK-47s, and sandbags have been placed along the doors in case soldiers try to flush them out with gas," he said.

"No one is afraid in the night, but everyone is trying to be careful," Abdel Rahman said. "The people are playing cards, joking and hearing news, but every one of us is feeling it is like a prison." ***Reports from Reuters, AP***

Five planets line up . . .

From page A1

was in 1940.

In May 2000, the five planets formed a tighter bunch but were so close to the sun that they were washed out by its glare.

In 2004, they will appear together again in the night sky, but will be spread over a much wider area, said J. Kelly Beatty, executive editor of Sky & Telescope magazine.

Doomsday scenarios

Doomsayers are likely to see some dark meaning in what astronomers say is purely a celestial coincidence.

In the months before the May 2000 lineup, some thought it foretold widespread catastrophe. In February 1954 B.C., a similar alignment led the Chinese to restart their calendar at year 0, Mosley said.

But don't call this a planetary alignment. And even though this is fairly rare, there is nothing for earthlings to worry about, astronomer Geoff Chester of the US Naval Observatory said earlier this month.

"It is an opportunity to see all five of the naked eye planets in the same part of the sky at the same time and that does not happen very often," Chester said.

It could be 50 or 100 years before this happens again, he said.

The display should be easy to see in most parts of the inhabited world, weather permitting, though those at extreme northern and southern latitudes may need binoculars or a small telescope, and Mercury could still be hard to spot, he said.

Bright side

A similar grouping of the same five planets, plus the moon, occurred on May 5, 2000, accompanied by dire predictions of extraordinary tides and other cataclysms. Earth survived.

However, that cluster occurred on the opposite side of the Sun from Earth, and the Sun's light was so bright the planets could not be seen from Earth.

This time, most humans should have a good view, Chester said.

What they should be able to see will be Mercury, Venus, Mars and Saturn all grouped within the span of 10 degrees of the sky, or about the width of a fist held at arm's length.

Jupiter will be a bit higher in the sky, about three fist-widths away, but still quite close.

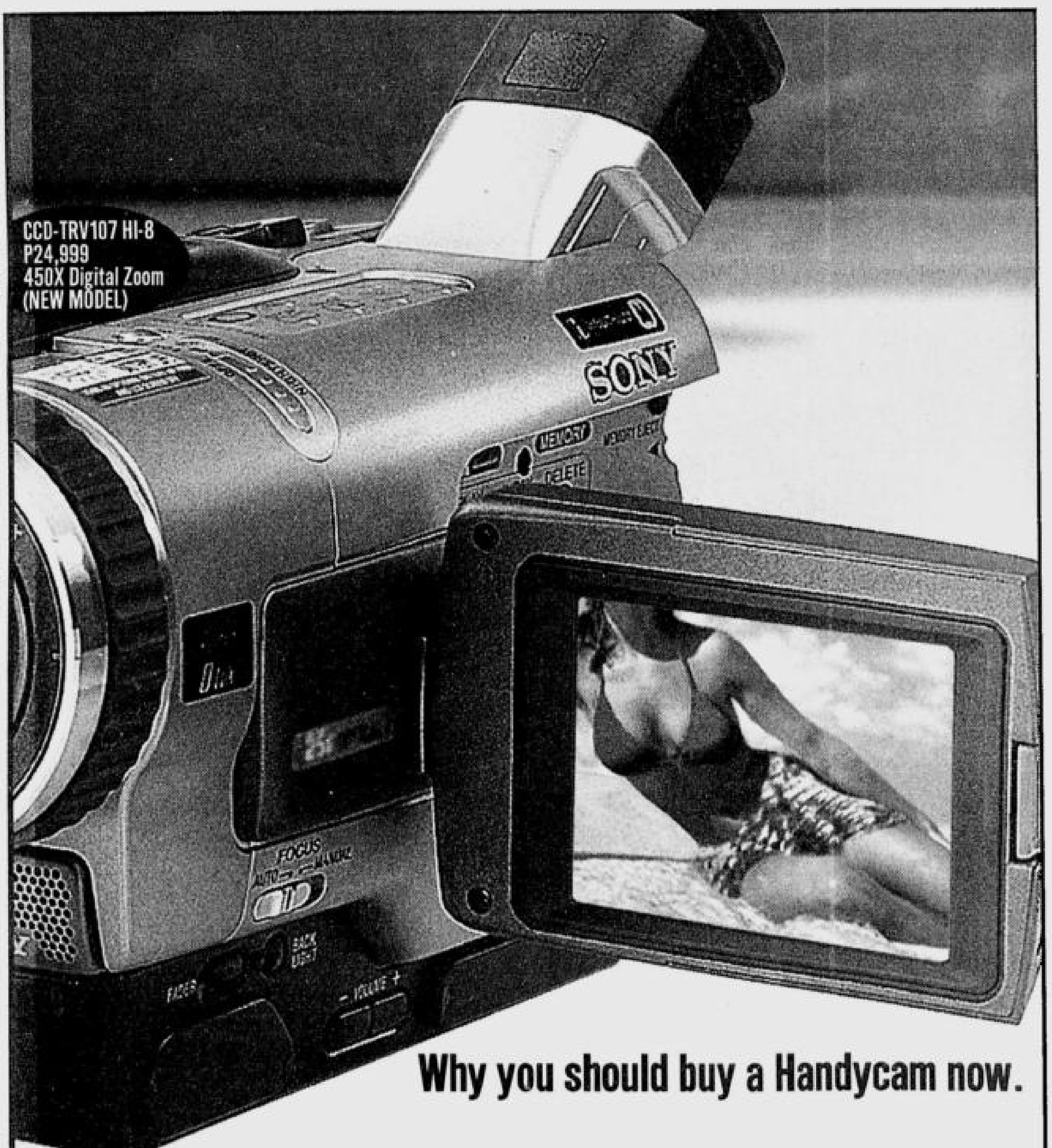
The cluster will start to dissipate around May 12, Chester said, when Mercury will dip closer to the horizon and become less visible.

This grouping is only the planets people can see without help, and does not count as an alignment, according to Chester, though others have used that term.

Chester considers a true alignment to be when all the planets are on the same side of the sun, and grouped within about 90 degrees—nine fist-widths—of each other, or closer. This occurs once in several hundred years.

The closest known planetary alignment in the last two millennia occurred on April 11, 1128, before most planets were identified as such, including Earth, according to Chester.

AP/Reuters



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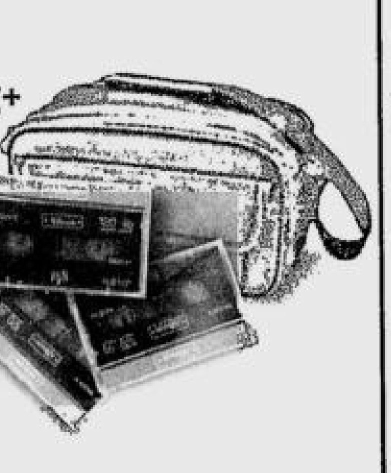

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Buhain evading the issue

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE RECENT letter of Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain to the unsinkable Julian Malonso, 77-year-old sports critique who once served as president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, only raises more questions than answers.

Here's why.

First, the reply of Buhain, the youngest PSC chair at 33, to the straight-talking Malonso clearly evaded some points raised by the former POC president.

In his letter to Buhain some weeks back, Malonso said the Philippine Sports Commission should not involve itself with international competitions because these competitions are the concern of the Philippine Olympic Committee and the National Sports Associations, the bodies recognized by the International Olympic Committee. "It is their duty and responsibility," he said. And because PSC officials have no personality in these IOC-recognized events, Malonso said they should just stay home, stressing that he had been "advising former PSC chairmen not to join athletic delegations abroad."

Unfortunately, Malonso said, Buhain's response to his letter did not say whether or not the PSC chair and his commissioners are joining international meets such as the coming Busan Asian Games. Here's Buhain's reply in full:

Dear Lt. Col. Malonso:

I would like to thank you for your initiative in expressing your views regarding the role of the Philippine Sports Commission in the preparation and participation of the country in international sporting events.

Knowing your wide experience and knowledge in Philippine sports, the PSC is indeed thankful to hear your insights especially in the delicate issue of relationship between and among the Philippine Olympic Committee, National Sports Associations and the PSC.

Rest assured though that you insights will always be properly noted as we look into the proper role of various stakeholders in the development of local sports. Thank you.

Very truly yours,
Eric R. Buhain
Chairman

SPORTSWATCH

Karting 3rd leg tomorrow

TOP KARTERS try to beef up chances for the titles at stake as the third leg of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series reels off tomorrow at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Defending champion Pepon Marave guns for his third consecutive win the premiere Formula-A class. And for sure, GP-Kart Plaza proteges Jinky Cabilinan and Manny Sy will go all out to stop him. Cabilinan copped the runner-up finish in the last leg of this even sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgetone, ZED, Nokia and Coca-Cola Bottlers. He posted the fastest laptime of 43,199 in the said class agaisnt Marave's 43,265.

Balleber downs Coscolluela

PERENNIAL champion Edgar Balleber rolled back Gil Coscolluela, 6-9, 9-7, 9-6, 9-4, Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals in the second leg of the Milo/SRAP squash circuit at the Makati Sports Club courts. Joining Balleber in the quarterfinals of the open competition are Arnel Begornia, Rodan Banquilay, Joboy Antipala, Jun Paganpan, Anthony Tulao, Ed Aguilando and Ricky Espinola. Begornia crushed Ramon Velhagen, 9-6, 9-1, 9-0; Banquilay turned back Berto Carin, 9-6, 1-9, 2-9, 9-4, 9-2; Antipala whipped Rico Gomez; 9-6, 9-3, 9-4; Paganpan held off Richard Bringas, 9-4, 5-9, 7-9, 10-8, 9-2; Tulao downed Nache Garcia, 9-5,.9-4, 6-9, 9-4; Aguilando subdued Duane Santos, 9-0, 3-9, 1-9, 9-3, 9-4; and Espinola toppled Jaime Ortua, 8-10, 9-6, 9-5, 9-1.

Pasay derby unfolds tonight

WHO will be first winner of Pasay City Cockpit's search for the PCCA of the Year 2002? The answer will be known tonight when the 5th Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-cock derby gets going at 7 p.m. tonight bannering 64 fast-paced encounters. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Hammer Dewormer. Malabon cocker Daday Siochi's bet, CMS Tiger Ninja, is the current leader with 11.5 points followed by Tony Lasala (Rey San Luis, 10.5); Arnel Pimentel (Creekside SPC, 10); Dindo and Mon Torres (Aui RPT Gem, 10); Allan Siaco (ASF General, 9); Madison Go (Gemquarian 168, 9); Joel Fernando (JOF, 9); Joey Lapid (Saluyan, 9); Dante Eustaquio (Black Manta, 7.5); Cito Manansala (CM Jackpot, 7); Ferdie Eusebio (FTE RCA, 7). Josting tonight's derby are Tony Lasal, Joel Fernando and Allan Siaco. For inquiries, call 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Mandaluyong tilt on Tuesday

THE LUZON Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 2nd Cockfighting Conference 6-Cock Derby, a major attraction at the Mandaluyong Coliseum, is all set this coming Tuesday and Thursday, April 23 and 25, with about 45 participants seeing action. The two-day cockfest will highlight the ongoing fierce battle for the coveted LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year award, according to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz. Currently leading, with 5.5 points each and brothers Joseph and Peter Chua of Malvar, Batangas, in tandem with lawyer Romero Yu (Jopete Ray Showdown)and OPMI president Vic Yu and Rey Lee (Pitmaster).

'Binangonan MK' beats field

BINANGONAN MK of former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares and longtime partner Manny Kho stamped their class by defeating betting favorite Mulawin LBJ of Luis Bersamin in the last and deciding match of the evening to score six stirring points and emerge solo champion of the NCA 7-Cock Derby late Wednesday night at the Araneta Coliseum. Two other entries—Meycauayan of Mayor Eddie Alarilla and Geran of engineer Gerry Fevidal—wound up with 5-1/2 point each to land a close second while three others placed joint third with five points apiece.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Magic Fingers 2. Pingas 3. Crisel Joy
Race 2—1. Hemisphere 2. Master Strategist 3. Rose and Toy 4. Gidget
Race 3—1. Despedida 2. Union City Boy
Race 4—1. Bohemyo 2. Hello Paul 3. Suterian Era 4. Feast of Diamond 5. Southern Glory
Race 5—1. Free Time 2. Irish Star
Race 6—1. Laguna Gold 2. River Bee 3. Material Maker 4. Action Mark 5. Kayang Kaya/Anytime Anywhere
Race 7—1. Silver Print 2. Cardinal Rule 3. Doña Evelyn 4. Run for Cash 5. Red Hahn
Race 8—1. Favorite Trick 2. Regalberto 3. Aya's Dream
Race 9—1. Rugged Dancer 2. Never Quit 3. Pacific Dancer 4. Pistol Star 5. Silver Flyer 6. Katya

MBA ACTION

'Gapo' rips Pangasinan

GAMES TOMORROW (Cebu Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Davao vs Cagayan
6 p.m.—Negros vs Cebu

OLONGAPO held its ground in the wake of Osaka Pangasinan's repeated rallies to prevail, 95-86, Wednesday night and share second place in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Conference at the CDCC Sports Complex in San Fabian, Pangasinan.

The Olongapo Volunteers improved their win-loss record to 3-1 and earned the distinction of becoming the first visiting team to beat the home squad after 14 games.

Jeffrey Flowers, last year's leading rebounder, again turned out to be the Volunteers' main man by scoring 19 points and pulling down 17 boards against chief rival Romel Adducul of the Waves.

The 6-foot-8 Flowers was supported by Brixter Encarnacion, who tallied 16 points, and Eugene Tan, who ably orchestrated the plays and dished off seven assists.

Running and gunning with precision, the Volunteers of Coach Junel Baculi took their biggest lead at 86-70 from which the Waves failed to recover en route to their second loss in four starts.

Chris Clay, Flowers' former teammate with the Laguna Lakers, paced the Waves of Coach Lawrence Chongson with 27 points.

The fouling out of Adducul with still 4 minutes and 16 seconds left further took the fight of Osaka Pangasinan, which fell to fifth place.

Cellar-dwellers Pampanga and Casino Cagayan de Oro are still battling at the Mindanao Polytechnic Gym at presstime.

RP team known today

By June Navarro

THE LONG wait for the final composition of the PBA-backed national team will finally be over as head coach Jong Uichico bares today the cast of dribblers bound for the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea this September.

From a lean 30-man training team, Uichico prunes down the list to 12 determined men whose main task is to redeem the country's long lost basketball glory in the quadrennial meet.

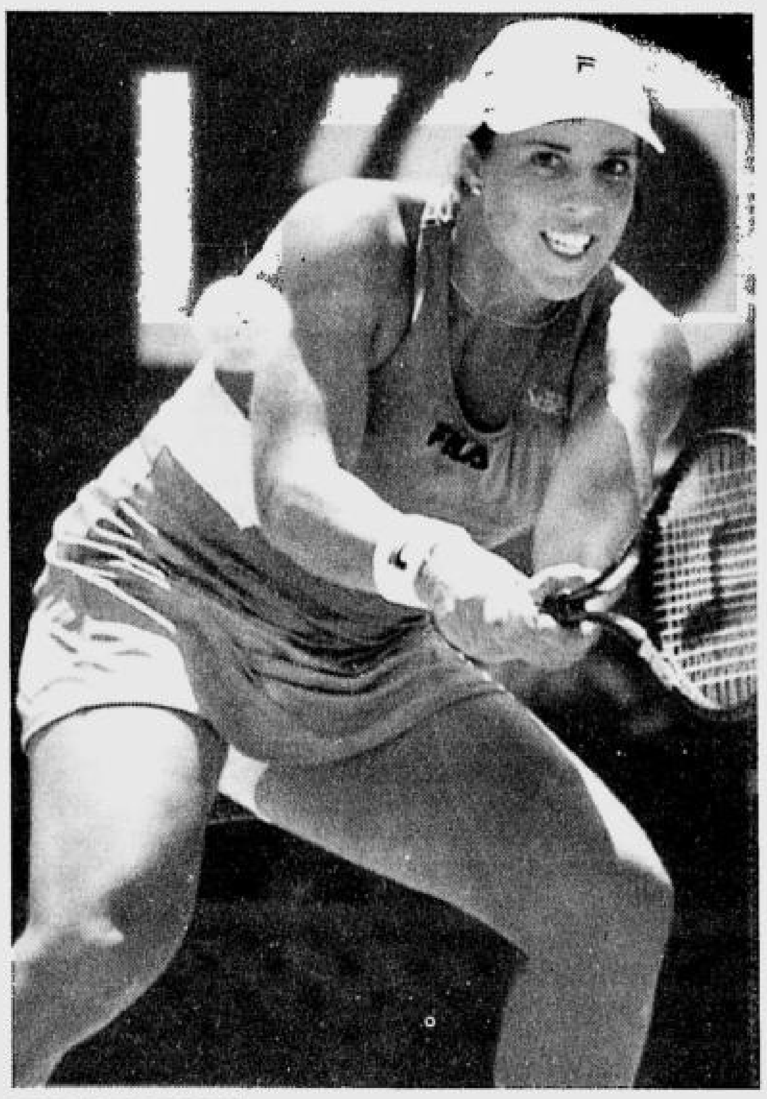
The country last won the Asiad gold in 1962 behind a squad spearheaded by Carlos Loyzaga.

Expected to be named to the team are Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Rudy Hatfield, Dennis Espino, Kenneth Duremdes, Olsen Racela, Chris Jackson, Johnny Abarrientos, Jeffrey Cariaso, Davonn Harp, Mick Pennisi, Danny Seigle, Danny Ildefonso and Dondon Hontiveros. There will be three alternates.

"Whatever my decision is, the only consideration is what's good for the country," said Uichico.

Meanwhile, the Selecta-RP Team edged Barangay Ginebra, 75-73, in a no-bearing match last night at the Makati Coliseum.

Selecta-RP closed out its campaign in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup with a 4-7 card, the same record of Hapee-RP. The Kings wound up at 3-8.



SURVIVES SCARE

Top-ranked Jennifer Capriati hits a backhand to Janette Husarova in their Family Circle Cup match in Charleston, South Carolina, yesterday. Capriati bucked a first-set loss to win, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4. Meanwhile, Philta will hold the Luis Hilado Memorial Cup April 22-28 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Deadline of registration is tomorrow at 12 noon. AP

PBL: Shark Energy battles La Salle

By Dennis Eroa

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
4 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Shark Energy Drink
6 p.m.—Montaña Jewels vs John O-Juzz

SHARK Energy Drink tries to wiggle out of a tight position when it battles ICTSI-La Salle today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

"It' will be hard if we lose this one," said Shark mentor Leo Austria.

The Energy Drink Kings share the cellar with guest team RP Youth with three straight losses.

Austria, owner of two Challenge Cup titles, said his team lacks a leader. "Everybody's afraid to take charge, fearful perhaps, of making a mistake. We've studied the strength and weaknesses of our past opponents and still came short."

The Shark-ICTSI tussle is set at 4 p.m., followed by the 6 p.m. clash between Montaña and John-O-Juzz. Ateneo, ICTSI, John-O-Juzz and Kutitap share the leadership with 3-1 slates.

ICTSI remains deadly with its full-court, trapping defense. The addition of defensive ace Francis Zamora also toughtened its interior defense.

Exalta gets warm welcome

CAGAYAN DE ORO—The island-hopping Nissan Exalta GS Superio received a rousing welcome by the topnotch car manufacturer's top executive here Wednesday after another phase of the sedan's breakthorugh 30-day non-stop run in the fourth Pan Philippine Marathon.

Nissan-CDO's Rey Orimaco was on hand to accompany the four-man crew made up of Deny Riel, Bebol Roque, Agey Garcia and Robby David around the city before media.

Although the trip to this city was a breeze, the Caltex Havoline odometer is now parading a kilometer reading of 12,843, and is on track in breaking the 30,586 kilometers to make a marathon run, a 1991 Sentra logged 30,000 kilometers.

Magramo vs Lunas

ALL roads lead to the Convention Center in Paniqui, Tarlac tomorrow when seasoned fighter Melvin Magramo defends his Philippine flyweight crown against top challenger Rolly Lunas of Tabaco, Albay in the main bout.

Magramo, toting a 37-17-2 card and eyeing to regain his Orient crown, needs to win convincingly over the undefeated Lunas who holds a record of 10 wins, 7 by knockout.

Presented by businessman/sportsman Johnny Elorde, this exciting promotion will also showcase other fights.

Motoring briefing

PARTICIPANTS to the May 4 Shell Helix-Motoring Sampaguita Rally-The Subic Experience will have their briefing at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City.

Speakers are Pocholo Ramirez, Ike Borz and Motoring Today's Ray "Butch" Gamboa. "It is important for every participant to join the race," Gamboa said.

The other birthday kid

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I FACE the mirror today and I see a man sporting long hair. No, that's not a camouflage for thinning hair. Yes, his father was bald. But the man in the mirror does not have, will never have, a hairline that will recede. It can only secede to a silver crown as the pate's owner had taken after his mother's hair: thick, wavy even.

The man's hair, still flowing, flying, is still basically black, with streaks of gray dotting the sideburns.

"Meet my friend, who is my eternal George Harrison," said Vernon Sarne of the man one balmy night in Quezon City. It was that time when Vince Socco, the man Danny Isla the Beatlemaniac had succeeded as marketing expert at Toyota Motor Philippines, felt the itch to "kiss Manila again." Vince left his bachelor pad in Singapore last month just to treat friends to a bout of booze at Tubbatahatta along Morato Avenue. Wotta guy.

Now this man in the mirror, he seems to defy Father Time.

He has cheeks as fresh as dewdrops.

The lines in his face have not metamorphosed into creases.

He has a smile as young as a summer rose.

It's his diet maybe? Beer, beef and boar early in life. Wine, fish and veggies at 40 onwards.

Or, as Caffe Appassionato's Bert B. Bravo had succinctly put it one night recently at Riviera: "Clean living, podner? I know you have not puffed a ciggie up to now, right?"

Right he was.

Oh, yes, the man in the mirror though had tried Cuban cigars, particularly the aromatic Cohibas, and others like Don Julio, Romeo & Juliet, Don Diego and Santa Damiana. The fling, as in all other flings, lasted but briefly. The "sun" of the man's life had aborted the habit even before it could start to take roots.

What I am saying is, people who think they are old aren't really old if only they know the secret of youth.

Listen to Proverbs 20:29: "The glory of young men is their strength and the beauty of old men is the gray head."

Sir Richard Steele said it in another way: "There are so few who can grow old with a good grace."

Let us then light a candle in the name of ageing gracefully.

As Cato the Censor said: "Become old early if you wish to stay old long."

Age is mental. So, don't be fooled by looks.

Now, who is that man in the mirror again?

He can be your every day man. Or anyone among the birthday kids today, like Erap of both Polk and Veterans. Erap became president of this republic armed with charisma and not a diploma. Alas, charisma could not carry him to greatness. In the end, Aristotle was right: Education is the best provision for old age.

Still, happy birthday, fellow 419er.

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV
Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 10:30 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN
2002 NBA Playoff Preview at 9 p.m. on ESPN

Family Futbol set Sunday

AFTER its exciting three-game draw (0-0, 1-1 and 2-2) against the FC Mañosa Futbol team on March 17, Athletic de Larrauri goes up against a slightly favored Real Deportivo Garcia this Sunday, 4 p.m., at the Alabang Country Club. The winner of the match between the Garcia and Larrauri clans will take home the coveted Family Futbol Cup.

BI bars Mideast, Russian bets from joining Open trackfest

By Marc Anthony

DUE to security concerns, athletes and officials coming from the Middle East and former Russian republics were barred by the Bureau of Immigration from entering the country and taking part in the Milo national Open Invitational track and field championships.

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok yesterday said athletes from Syria, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan were not allowed to enter the country because they don't have embassies in the country which makes it hard to verify their true identities.

Immigration officials said the strict measures regarding incoming foreigners were spurred by the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the United States, according to Go.

Before the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon building in Washington, the immigration bureau used to allow athletes coming from countries without diplomatic relations to the Philippines to stay here without visa for 72 hours.

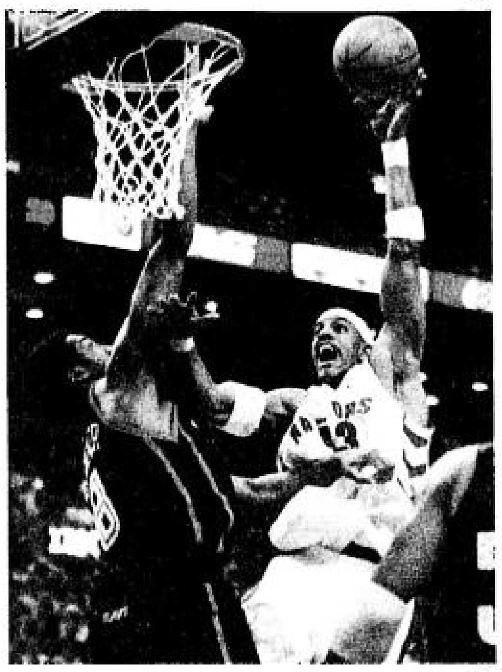
The development is expected to affect the size of the field in the championships, which will be known as the Gov. Jose Sering Cup. It will be held on May 1-4 at the Rizal Memorial track oval.

"We'll try to do something to help them get their visas because these officials are supposed to attend the 4As (Asian Amateur Athletic Association) council meeting," said Go.

He said the BI instructed him to ask the help of the Department of Foreign Affairs in facilitating the athletes' visas.

"This is only the first batch of participants who were denied entry. I think more will try to get visas and more will be denied because of the terrorist scare," said Go, who is supposed to meet Vice President and DFA Secretary Teofisto Guingona today.

The Sering Cup is one of the two major athletics events where the country's Asian Games bets will try to gauge their strength. On May 26, the Philippines will host the third leg of the 4As Grand Prix, also at the RMSC.



AP

HOOK SHOT

Toronto's Jerome Williams (right) baby hooks against Cleveland's Brian Skinner during their NBA game in Toronto on Wednesday. The Raptors won, 103-85, to gain the playoffs. Also at the end of the regular season, Detroit eliminated Milwaukee, 123-89, while Indiana beat Philadelphia, 103-80, to also advance. Complete results: Raptors 103, Cavaliers 85; Pacers 103, Sixers 80; Pistons 123, Bucks 89; Spurs 86, Jazz 84; SuperSonics 109, Grizzlies 94; Celtics 89, Hawks 81; Heat 103, Magic 89; Hornets 112, Bulls 106; Nets 99, Knicks 94; Timberwolves 104, Nuggets 90; Suns 89, Mavericks 76; Lakers 109, Kings 95; Warriors 109, LA Clippers 103.

Sports lounge inauguration today

FESTIVIES will mark the inauguration today of the country's first Athletes and Coaches Lounge, with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric R. Buhain heading the guest list.

Entertainment will be provided by popular violinist Jay Cayuca and his band and the Casino Filipino Choral Group.

A big *ati-atihan* group provided by Manila Sports Council chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza will also perk up the day's program.

The air-conditioned lounge is located on the second floor of the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center Building.

The inauguration will be held after a 3 p.m. Holy Mass to be officiated by Bishop Teodoro J. Buhain.

Other guests are Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, chair of the House committee on youth and sports, Pagcor director Luis Carlos, and Eduardo Mendoza, president of Centrum multi-vitamins which donated P500,000 for the lounge.

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FLIGHT UPDATES

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2nd Prize	Jonas Olano	Black Widow
3rd Prize	Klonikko Navarro	Bee Butterfly
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION - FLAT KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Mark Montalban	Balikatan
2nd Prize	Neil Bacala	Green Hornet
3rd Prize	Danilo Maussa	Lady Bug
COLLEGE DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Jules Solis	The Box Kite
2nd Prize	Michael Reyes	Perfect Symmetry
3rd Prize	Rolly Dalaut	Nestlé Product
ADULTS DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Vincent Olano	Nestlé Box Top
2nd Prize	Danilo Acobo	Seven Dragon Balls
3rd Prize	Ranulfo Lumbay	Ribbon Kite
COLLEGE DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Juniel Lugod	Flying Fish
2nd Prize	Alsbro Nallia	European Draco Kite
3rd Prize	John Bajas	Iguana
ADULTS DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Doods Balazo	Red Killer Vampire
2nd Prize	Edgar Ydemme	Penguin
3rd Prize	Ruel Aratia	Dinosaur Raptor
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College	John Gloria	The Lassy
SUPERKITE AWARD		
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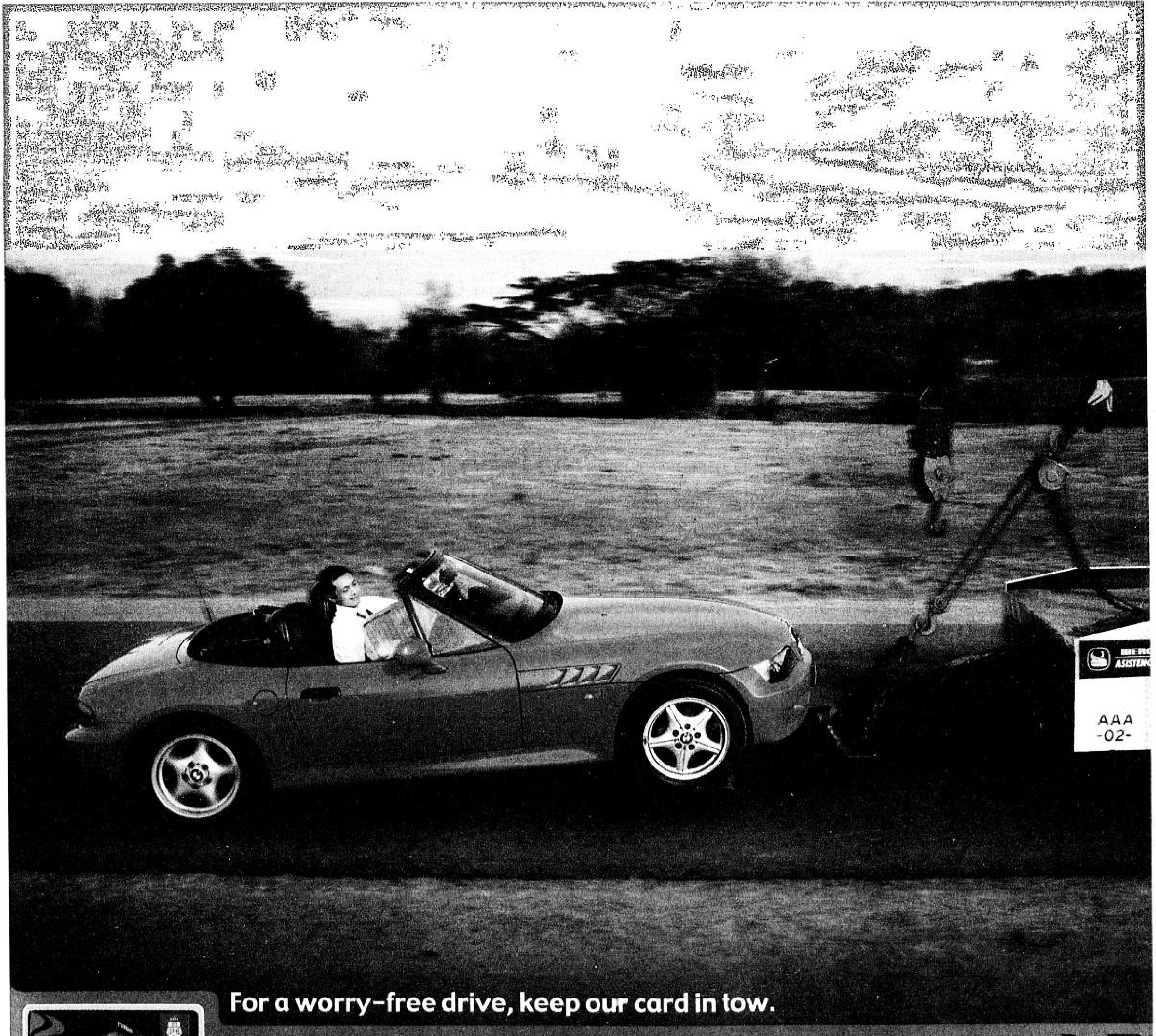
Watch out for BEAR BRAND Kitefest 2002!
Happening next at the Roxas Memorial College of Arts and Trade (RMCAT), Kalibo on April 28, 2002.



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METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

▩ Balikbayan kid abducted, robbed /A28
▩ 5 drug suspects freed on bail /A28
▩ Bare Eye: Tracing two Filipino boxing tragedies /A28
▩ Trader slain in QC /A28

Bloody car turned over to Crame

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE BLOODSTAINED BMW sedan in which a nurse was shot in Las Piñas City last Friday has been turned over to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame instead of to the Las Piñas Police which is investigating the killing.

According to SPO4 Ben Javier of the Las Piñas police said the Poblador, Bautista and Reyes law office had said in a statement that it was coordinating with the CIDG. The law office is representing the shooting suspect, Marybeth Lopez de Leon.

The Las Piñas police revealed this yesterday even as the city prosecutor's office summoned De Leon, 57, of the posh Ayala-Alabang village in Muntinlupa City, in connection with the killing of Belma Abella, her husband's private nurse.

SPO4 Javier clarified that the Las Piñas police have not transferred to the CIDG its jurisdiction over the case.

BLOODY CAR/ A28

Ill-fated QC hotel to be turned into funeral parlor

By Agnes E. Donato

A NEW lease had been given to the Quezon City Manor Hotel, where more than 70 people died and hundreds of others were injured in a fire last year, after the city council approved a resolution granting its owners a special permit to convert the hotel into a mortuary.

In the resolution, the councilors agreed to the proposal of the Genato Management Corp. to salvage the burnt structure, which had been "desolate and of no commercial use" since the tragedy, as one of the councilors pointed out.

The Genatos, owners of the hotel, are facing charges of violations of the Fire Code before a Quezon City court. But they supposedly vowed "to abide by the prescribed requirements imposed by the National Building code, the building safety requirements of the Quezon City government and secure the necessary business, health, ECC, mayor's and other permits (necessary) for the operation of the proposed mortuary."

The council also set another condition for the approval of the Genatos' proposal: Two of the chapels in the planned mortuary will be reserved for the free use of local residents.

The special permit for the operation of the funeral home will be given as soon as the Genatos have complied with all the requirements and the other necessary permits.

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE FRI. APRIL 19

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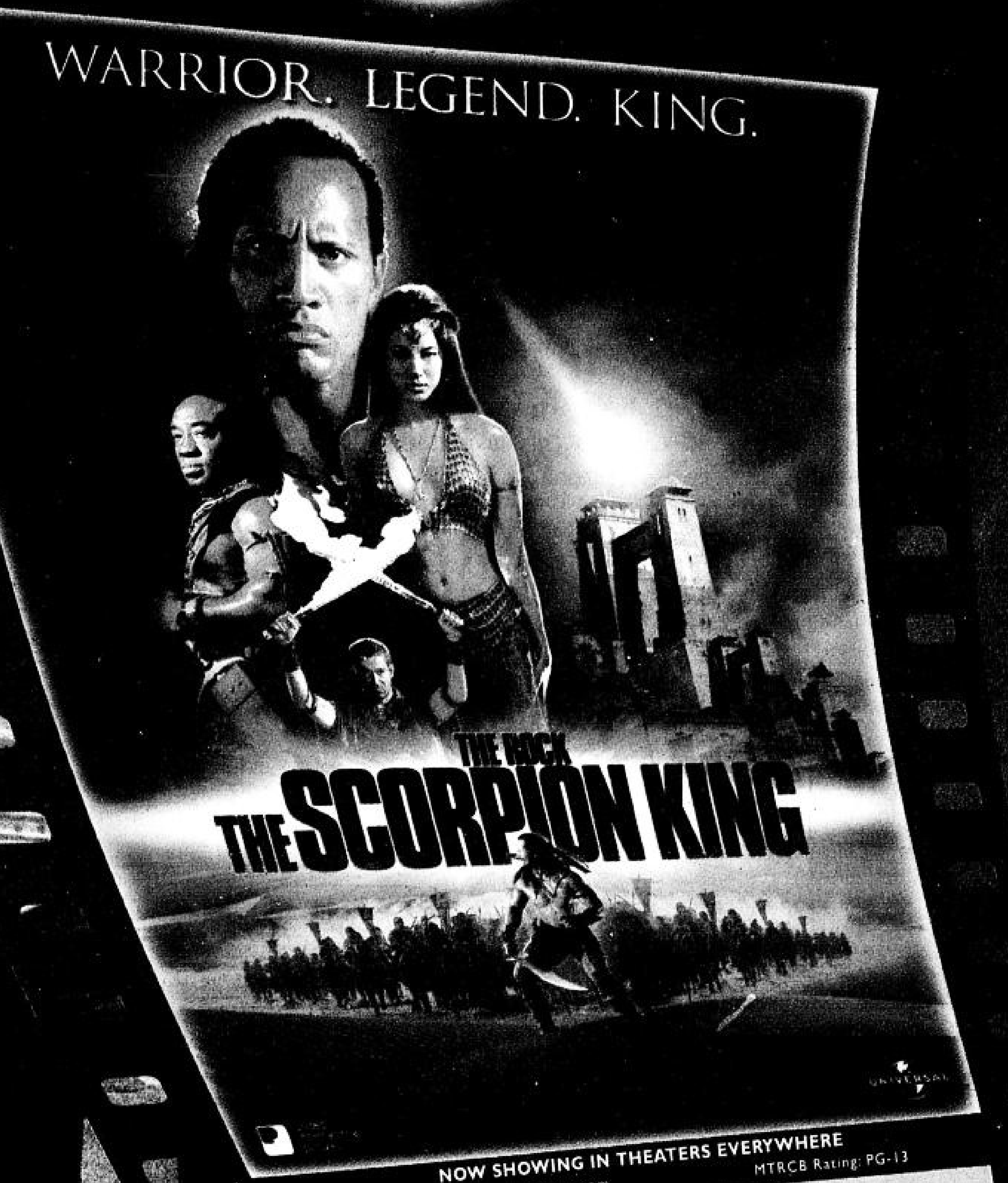
Cowboy Grill 8190 ARQUEZA ST., MAKATI	SWEETBLOOD PHYRIGIAN / KOOLJACKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 481 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	HEARTBEAT BROWNIE / MUSIC CIRCUIT	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	STREETLIFE SERSIDE/ZEST	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(049) 511.7268
DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant HOTEL REMBRANDT, T. MORATO Q.C.	UNFORGETTABLES	☎373-3333
KAMPO 2088 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	AEGIS NEW LEVEL/ D'WIZZ	☎373.5110
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	D'BUMP SPAGHETTI	MULATTO APR. 25 ☎890.4735
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA ST	FLIGHT VERSE 2	☎522-0429
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe · Grill · Restaurant TM KALAW, LUNETA, MANILA	Q & A BAND	P 250 CONSUMABLE 8:30 PM ☎400-7438/39
OUTSIDE METRO MANILA 912-8983		
Cowboy Grill BINAN, LAGUNA	POWER ON PARTY-Z-POLE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(049) 511.7268
KAMPO TAGAYTAY BRGY. SUNGAY S TAGAYTAY CITY	NEXT PAGE	☎373.5110
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	DEGREE	TRUE FAITH APR 20 ☎(045)961.3360
THE SUMMIT THE ROYAL MANDAYA HOTEL J. PALMA GIL, DAVAO CITY	LIMITED EDITION BAND APR.16-27 W/ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT HAPPY HOUR 6-9 PM	MS. ANGELICA JONES & MR. ROBERT SENA APR. 20 ☎(082)-2250888



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Raising the Level of Professional Growth at BCF

Dr. Ricardo P. Pama, President of BCF

By the third year of his four-year term as President of BCF, Dr. Ricardo P. Pama had raised to 74% the level of master's degree holders in the BCF Faculty. By the end of his term, on April 2003, this percentage will have risen to an unprecedented 91% level. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) sets as minimum standard 35% master's degree holders in Philippine tertiary-level institutions. Inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of their President, BCF teachers have responded in droves, availing of the wide range of graduate study program opportunities opened up by the multiple graduate school linkages that BCF established. Institutional networking was priority program that Dr. Pama quickly established upon his assumption of the BCF presidency. The success of the program was accentuated by an unexpected dividend. And that is, forty-one percent (41%) of BCF's non-teaching staff are currently in pursuit of a master's degree. While most universities have resorted to direct hiring of masters degree holders to boost their master's degree percentage, BCF's rise to the current level came from the wide response of BCF faculty members in the roster, who fully accepted the call for sustained, professional growth.

Serving successively at the Bangkok-based, internationally organized and endowed Asian Institute of Technology as Vice President for Development and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Pama retired as the highest-ranking Asian at the Institute. "It is time to serve my country", said Dr. Pama, as he accepted the reins and the presidency of BCF in May 1999.

Years of unprecedented expenditure and upgrading has resulted in the transformation of BCF's physical plant and infrastructure. This was impelled by the vision set by BCF's founders when they converted the institution in a Foundation. This and the dramatic professional upgrading of BCF faculty qualifications, punctuated and marked the term of Dr. Ricardo P. Pama as BCF President, a Builder of Excellence since the start of his lifelong career as a professional academician and educator!

The No. 1 Criminology College in the Nation!

Dean Ben Mangusan & the BCF College of Criminology Team!

In his (5) years as Dean, BCF was rated as the No. 1 College of Criminology in the Nation, according to the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) and the Commission of Higher Education (CHED). BCF has posted the No. 1 passing rate performance in the country. In March 2002, BCF posted a passing rate of 98% (117 of 120 examinees). In September 2001, BCF posted a passing rate of 92% (158 of 172) capturing 8 of the top 20 places. In March 2001, 94 of 101 examinees made it for a passing rate of 93.0% with BCF garnering 3 places in the top ten (1st, 6th, 7th)... Ben Mangusan and his Team of Criminology Teachers are Builders of BCF as a Center of Excellence!

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BCF Roll of Honor

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March 2002:	Erickson A. Benlaga, 4th place; Armando A. Liwan, 10th place
September 2001:	Jason R. Peralta, 2nd place; Norvelita P. Agulan, 4th place; Freddie B. Caday, 6th place; Dwight L. Fagyan, 11th place Jonathan R. Budaden, 12th place; Clarence Eden D. Ande,13th place; Bronson C. Caramto, 16th place; Maurice Nabunat, 20th place;
March 2001:	Nelson S. Cortes, 1st place; Romeo T. Gahid, 6th place; Romeo G. Astrero, 7th place,
September 2000:	Romeo P. Sixto, 13th place; Arsenio K. Valle 14th place; Reynaldo G. Apo, 19th place
March 2000:	Melisa A. Minglana, 4th place; Averil M. Pimo-on, 7th place; Frederick W. Batang-I, 10th place;
September 1999:	Arthur B. Gubia-on, 1st place; Severini C. Laluan Jr., 3rd place; Benito B. Guingahan Jr., 4th place; Arnold A. Buasan, 7th place
March 1999:	Wilson B. Amoy, 6th place; Jesus Reparejo, 9th place; Marcelo L. Montanio, 10th place
September 1998:	Reagan A. Joksi, 4th place
March 1998:	Alex A. Alfonso, 8th place
September 1997:	Chester D. King-eo, 2nd place

Highly Qualified Faculty Team

Dean Enrico Garcia & the BCF Engineering & Architecture Team!

COLLEGE of ENGINEERING and ARCHITECTURE

BCF Roll of Honor

CIVIL ENGINEERING BOARD EXAMINATIONS

Maximo Sang-an, 2nd place, 1960;
Samuel Vilanueva Jr., 3rd place, 1970;
Oliver W. Ibanez, 12th place, 1997;
Jerson T. Contie, 20th place, 1998;

SENIOR GEODETIC ENGINEERING BOARD EXAMINATIONS

Marvin M. Mayos, 2nd place, 1998;
Edgardo D. Jaolidone, 4th place, 1997;
Julius Bumactao, 20th place, 1998;

SANITARY ENGINEERING BOARD EXAMINATIONS

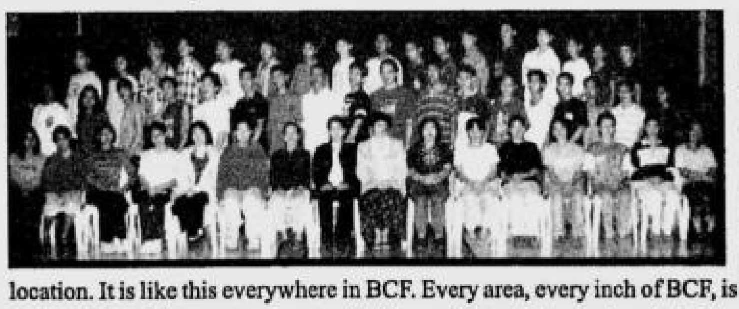
Jacqueline Tudlong, 4th place, 1996;
Raul Cubangay, 7th place, 1996;
Richard Chang, 11th place, 1997;
Nelson Notarte, 13th place, 1997;

BOARD EXAMINATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURE

Warren W. Lopez, 3rd place, 1999;
Francis C. Tabisola, 11th place, 1998

The MVPs of BCF

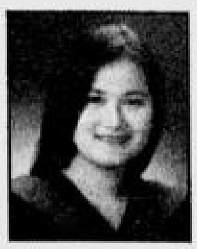
Supervisor Maribel Ledesma & the BCF All-Student Janitorial Crew!



Come and take a look at any corner of BCF's multi-complex buildings, from the remotest classrooms to the main floor offices. You will see spic and span rooms, from floor to ceiling. You will see consistent, uniform cleanliness, regardless of location. It is like this everywhere in BCF. Every area, every inch of BCF, is spanking clean. The credit for this remarkable achievement goes to a highly motivated, singularly minded team of high achievers known as the BCF Student Janitorial Crew. Even as a super typhoon howls outside and rainwater is invading floors and rooms in scattered locations, this group is on duty, working tirelessly and intensively to dry up the floors and prevent water damage. Consistent, high quality, high standard work output, rain or shine. Such is the work ethic of the most invisible, most unassuming, high-achieving group in the BCF campus. This is a group that has managed to transcend the blue-collar nature of their jobs, to transform their tasks into visible vestiges of excellence. In so doing they have managed to upstage their more glamorous and prestigious white-collar colleagues in the academe. In BCF, we point to our All-Student Janitorial Crew, as the model performing group for emulation by the entire BCF organization. At BCF, we look upon them as the MVP's of the BCF Community. We proudly manifest our profound appreciation for their stunning and sustained, exemplary work.... Our All-Student Builders of Excellence!

Nationally-Renowned College of Law

Dean Ray Agranzamendez, Dean Emeritus Honor Aquino, Bar Topnotcher Janet B. Abuel & the BCF College of Law Team.



The headlines said it all. The Manila Bulletin page 1 main story proclaimed: "1,465 Pass Bar; Baguio Grad Tops." The Philippine Daily Inquirer front page featured a huge picture of BCF Topnotcher Janet Abuel, coupled by a lengthy, main story news report. Contradicting conventional wisdom in the country that once again, Manila's big name schools UP or Ateneo would head the Top Ten in the 1998 Bar Examinations, BCF intervened with the inevitable and captured the nation's imagination. But even before 1998, this storied, Standard Bearer of BCF was already known in the region. In the 1960's, BCF was rated among the Top Ten Law Schools in the country. Eleven BCF examinees from 1962 to 1995 placed 3rd, 8th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, & 16th. The BCF College Of Law... A builder and a trail-blazer in excellence for 56 years now.

COLLEGE of LAW

BCF ROLL OF HONOR

Janet B. Abuel, 1st place, 1998; Arthur E. Galace, 3rd place, 1976; Honorato Y. Aquino, 8th place, 1963; Lyssa Pagano Calde, 10th place, 1995; Prospero A. Olivas, 10th place, 1962; Alexander P. Aguirre, 11th place, 1971; Gerardo V. Galpo, 11th place, 1978; Jose Godofredo M. Naui, 11th place, 1977; Miguel B. Licerlade, 13th place, 1984; Lauro D. Gacayan, 14th place, 1985; Teddy C. Gonzales, 15th place, 1979; Clemente S. Calpotura, 16th place, 1965

Awardee as: "Center for the Development of Excellence."

Dean Nancy Flores & the BCF College of Computer Sciences Team!

As the newest field of study at BCF in a crowded industry where rapid obsolescene and technology change is the norm, the BCF College of Computer Sciences quickly broke out of the pack and established new standards of quality in the study of computer sciences to earn a national Endowment Award and CHED Recognition as a "Center of Development for Excellence". Credit goes to Dean Nancy Flores & her dynamic crew of young computer teachers.

COLLEGE of COMPUTER SCIENCES

A Harvest of International Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals for RP from Our Cordillera Boys!

Marques Sangiao:	Gold Medalist, SEA Games, Wushu, Kuala Lumpur, 2001
George Lozadan:	Gold Medalist, SEA Wushu Championship, Myanmar,1999 Bronze Medalist, World Wushu Championship, Rome, 1997
Dare Malicdan:	Silver Medalist, SEA Wushu Championship, Myanmar, 1999 Bronze Medalist, World Wushu Championship, Hongkong,1999
Ervin Yodyodo:	Silver Medalist, SEA Wushu Championship, Myanmar, 1999

Growing up respectively on the plains and mountain ranges of the Cordilleras, Marq Sangiao, George Lozadan, Dare Malicdan, Ervin Yodyodo, (including the 2002 aspirants for berths in the RP National Team in Wushu: Marlon Binwag, Marvin Sicomen, Edward Carojen, Cicero Humiding); BCF's boys in Wushu never dreamed of winning international gold and silver medals as Athletes of the Republic of the Philippines in the South East Asian Games (SEAG), the South East Asian Wushu Championships and in the World Wushu Championships. Entering as freshmen in BCF they were spotted as natural athletes in Taekwondo. They were quickly entered by Wushu coaches in national competitions where they successively knocked down their respective opponents and individually earned places and berths in the RP National Teams. For their international preparation, they were placed under the tutelage of coaches from the People's Republic of China. They quickly learned the mental toughness and discipline required to go with the stamina and the prodigious energy exacted by this demanding sport. International opponents, far more seasoned and experienced, quickly learned to be wary of RP's Wushu athletes from the Cordilleras in the individual matches. These opponents spent most of the matches maneuvering away from harms way, avoiding the RP Boys powerful and quick thrusts. The fear engendered by their reputation of being fierce fighters inside the mats, resulted in victory after victory, to the delight of the officialdom of successive Philippine delegations. The BCF Boys in Wushu produced 2 Gold, 3 Silver & 2 Bronze Medals by besting successive opponents to earn the right to hear the playing of the Philippine National Anthem and witness the raising of RP's colors from the Winners Podiums in Kuala Lumpur, Myanmar, Rome and Hongkong. Facing steep odds and entering the international arena after less than a years time of training, our BCF Boys used natural ability and instincts to blaze their way to the pedestal of athletic honors.... The Collective Pride of BCF... All Builders of Excellence!

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A Center for Excellence

The Conversion of a Private School into a Foundation Pays Handsome Dividends for its Students.

The Vision and Legacy behind BCF.

It was April 7,1999. The news of the day was that Ms. Janet B. Abuel of the Baguio Colleges Foundation had topped the Bar Examinations! News reports on the front pages of the national dailies expressed surprise that a small, little-known school outside Metro Manila managed to accomplish a feat hitherto monopolized by the nation's leading universities.

Highest Institutional Masteral Degree Ratio

It turns out that BCF, this little-known school, holds the record of having the highest ratio of faculty members with master's degrees, currently standing at 74%. This is the highest percentage among Philippine tertiary-level institutions. By the end of the School Year in 2003, this ratio of master's degree holders in the BCF faculty is expected to rise to 91%.

Comparable Pay Scale & Benefits

The pay scale and benefits of the Faculty and Staff of BCF were also found to be comparable with those of the nation's most prestigious universities.

Comparable Facilities

Furthermore, it is widely held among evaluation teams who have inspected and compared institutional facilities in various regions, that the classrooms, libraries and laboratories of BCF, its gymnasium and theatre are comparable with the finest universities in the country.

Impressive Maintenance & Cleanliness

In addition, many of these inspecting teams were impressed by the cleanliness of the premises of BCF, prompting a chairman of an accrediting team to remark, "BCF is so clean, you can sleep on the floor of its restrooms." In fact, Mr. Tomas Emerito Magdangal, the National President of the Government Organization for Information Technology had this to say, in a 23 July 2001 letter to BCF;

A Testimonial

"...I am very much impressed with the noticeably spic-and-span comfort rooms which are comparable to those of five-star hotels. I must say that the library, the computer classrooms and other facilities are not just comparable to the best in Metro Manila, they are even better. Personally, I am of the opinion that these facilities compare very well with those I have seen in other countries. BCF, *Yan ang* world-class... "

The No. 1 College of Criminology in the Nation

Finally, it appears that aside from topping the Bar Examinations in 1999, BCF is currently rated as "The Number 1 Criminology College in the Nation", posting passing rates of 98% (117 of 120 examiness) in the March 2002 Criminology Licensure Examinations; 92% (158 of 172 examinees) in the September 2001 Exams; and 93% (94 of 101 examinees) in the March 2001 Criminology Licensure Examinations.

What BCF is known For

This is BCF. It is a school known for its ability to match the level of the performance of the best universities in the land. It is a school known for its ability to give its students, ---facilities and equipment that can be categorized as world-class. It is a school with a current enrolment level of 7,659 students (compared with the 30,000 to 40,000 enrolment level of the country's biggest institutions). It is a school with a gross tuition level for incoming freshmen of P7,000.00+ to P8,000.00+ per semester (compared to the P20,000.00 to P40,000.00 per semester tuition level of the elite Philippine institutions).

BCF's Founders

In 1967, Benjamin & Evangelina Salvosa, the founders of BCF, decided to donate, unconditionally and irrevocably, the assets of Baguio Colleges Inc. to Baguio Colleges Foundation. In effect, this singular, seminal event, mandated BCF management to, henceforth, plow back all revenue and earnings to the school. And that this plowback of revenue and earnings be exclusively in the furtherance of the attainment of the goals and objectives set forth in BCF's Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws. This simple, voluntary, altruistic act appears to have set the stage for propelling a small, primarily liberal arts college that BCF is, into one of the nation's top-performing educational institutions. Considering its size, its location, its limited course offerings and its income, BCF has emerged as an institution capable of offering school facilities and educational services that can equal or exceed the finest available in the country. We may attribute this to the transformation of the structure of the school initiated by BCF's founders in favor of its end users, the BCF student body.

Remembrance

Today, April 19, is a Day of Remembrance at BCF. It is the 89th Birth Anniversary of *Benjamin Salvosa*, its founder, who passed away in 1994.

The Founder's Early Years

As a senior Law student at the University of the Philippines, (UP Law Class 1936) he was editor of the 1936 *Philippinesian*, Chancellor of the Philippine Barristers and President of the UP Debating-Oratorical Club. He was Captain of the UP Debating Team, which embarked on a debating tour across the country to raise public consciousness on the issue of American Parity Rights.

As a law practitioner in Manila in 1940, he was legal counsel of 14 industrial & mining companies. He also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the National Coconut Corporation, until the outbreak of the war. After World War II, he loaded his law books onto a truck and made for Baguio City. Here, he founded Baguio Colleges (1946), amidst the smoking ruins of a war just ended. BC, the first college in the city, turned out to be a trailblazer in developing Baguio City as the educational center of the North, eventually serving students from regions all over the country. In 1950-51, Ben Salvosa was awarded a Fullbright Fellowship as Visiting Lecturer to the University of California at Berkeley; the University of Chicago, the Catholic University of America, Fordham University, the University of Maryland and the University of Florida. He was also awarded a Smith Mundt Research Fellowship at the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. In 1952, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Development Company. In 1954, he was drafted by the late President Ramon Magsaysay as Chairman & General Manager of the Philippine Coconut Administration (PHILCOA). In 1969, he and Mrs. Salvosa (UP G.N. 1935) were named by the University of the Philippines-Baguio, as "Parents of the Year." In 1976, the City of Baguio honored him with the title of "Father of Higher Education."

The Vision and Legacy of

Benjamin & Evangelina Salvosa

Beneficiaries in Perpetuity

Ben Salvosa knew what he was doing, when he voluntarily gave up the proprietary rights to an institution that was a forerunner of the private-school enterprise. He gave up proprietary rights to an undertaking that mushroomed into a booming industry as millions of post-war, education-oriented Filipino parents turned to the private sector for the tertiary education of their children. For all his life, Ben Salvaosa was a man of deep-seated convictions. He remained true to character when he entered the field of education. He foresaw the need to reorganize BCF in such a way that it could carry out its service mandate to its intended beneficiary, the studentry, continously and in perpetuity without any diminution of its resources and assets. BCF embodies and institutionalizes Ben Salvosa's dream of providing a system and platform with which to perpetuate Excellence, as envisioned in the Institution's Charter

The Road Less Traveled

From the beginning, Ben Salvosa was cognizant and appreciative of the high privilege of operating a private school catering to all levels of the public in pursuit of the noble task of educating the youth of the land. To remove one's proprietary interests deliberately in a venture as ideal and as a prestigious school, is not an easy decision to make, unless one has deep-seated convictions as to his or her aims and purposes in entering the field of education. Benjamin & Evangelina Salvosa seized the meaning and the significance of the moment, and, without fanfare, took the road less traveled in Philippine education.

5 drug suspects freed on bail

By Nelson F. Flores

A PASIG City judge allowed five suspected Chinese drug dealers to post bail following the failure of the Philippine National Police and government prosecutors to prove the need for their continued detention.

In his 12-page decision, Regional Trial Court Branch 266 Judge Rodrigo Lorenzo said there was no evidence at the current stage of the proceedings to warrant the continued detention of Chua Chi, 37; Huang Hongwei, 34; Joey Lu, 25; Xing Fu Wang, 31; and Tomas Lu, 34. He set a P500,000 bail for each of the accused.

He also ordered the Bureau of Immigration to immediately issue a hold-departure order against all of the accused, who are facing charges of violation of the provision of Republic Act No. 6425.

Police believed that the accused are members of a Fujian, China-based drug syndicate, the same criminal organization allegedly responsible for the killing of David Sy-Lato, a PNP anti-narcotics agent who was shot in Binondo, Manila last January.

Records showed that the five accused were arrested by PNP anti-narcotics agents last year while sitting in a makeshift drug laboratory in Pasig. The accused reportedly admitted during tactical interrogation their role as chemists in the drug laboratory.

Six kilos of metamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and several drums of chemicals used in the manufacture of shabu were seized from the lab.

In deciding to free the accused on bail, Lorenzo, a former Manila policeman, noted a Supreme Court ruling which states that "merely standing on or sitting in an alleged scene of a crime is not unlawful."

Members of the PNP Regional Intelligence and Special Operations Office who arrested the accused said they would seek the help of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza in appealing Lorenzo's ruling.

They said Lorenzo's ruling has greatly demoralized the members of their unit.

"They are big-time drug traffickers with no known address," one intelligence agent said. "How can we arrest them again if they decide to jump bail?"

Balikbayan boy abducted, robbed in Manila mall

By Philip C. Tubeza

MEMBERS of a *balikbayan* family from London were horrified Wednesday when their 10-year-old boy was abducted while they were shopping inside a mall in Ermita, Manila.

Luckily, the suspect freed the boy unharmed in Binondo after he took his expensive cellular phone and pocket money, police said.

The boy, a Grade 5 student in London, went missing for three hours, said Supt. Araceli Hofileña, chief of the Western Police District Women's and Children's section.

Police described the culprit as gay, 24 to 28 years old, of medium build, fair, and about 5-foot-4.

The gay man took the boy's Nokia 8250 cellular phone and P1,450 in cash, Hofileña said.

The boy was shopping with his cousins on the first level of Robinsons Place around 2 p.m. Wednesday when the man approached them. He allegedly took the boy aside without his cousins noticing it and introduced himself as an in-house detective of the mall. He told the boy to come with him, police said.

When his cousins noticed he was missing, one of them reported the incident to a mall security guard. "My nephew told the guard to alert those at the exits to look out for (the victim)," said Marissa Bernardo, 43, who accompanied the boy to the WPD headquarters yesterday. "But the guard apparently did not do that and instead asked my nephew many questions."

"Then they just went around the mall looking for (the victim) to no avail," Bernardo added.

The suspect took the boy to the McDonald's branch in Binondo and, after taking his belongings, told him to wait on the second floor.

The boy waited up to 5:30 p.m. When the man did not return, the boy went down and asked the food outlet's security guard the location of the nearest police station. A media person, who introduced himself as a reporter of Monitoring publication, noticed what was happening and offered to help and took the boy back to Midtown Plaza.

Tracing two Filipino boxing tragedies

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HE was barely six, too young to comprehend the impact of the fight. All he remembers is the image of the Filipino champ standing over a fallen foreign foe. The picture of a fulfilled and triumphant Flash Elorde was splashed on the front page of his favorite newspaper.

But it was not that victorious image which would spark his interest in the sport of boxing, confessed Teddy Reynoso, who identified himself as an avid fan from Bulacan, Bulacan.

Rather, it was the picture of a beleaguered Roberto Cruz in a losing defense of his world welterweight crown against Eddie Perkins of the USA.

The year was 1962. Earlier that year, Cruz had instantly loomed large in the national consciousness by flattening Battling Torres in a single round to win the world welterweight boxing title in Los Angeles, California.

It was, of course, in that same card where Benny Kid Paret died after suffering a vicious knockout. The poor fellow fell with the back of his head slamming against the bottom strand of the ropes.

But who stopped and killed Paret? Was it Emile Griffith, or a fellow with a sharper name?

***

How tragic that it's now easier to recall the name of the victim and not the winner in that tragic bout.

We've had our boyhood share of craft and savagery inside the ring. We would stay up late with our fathers scanning the TV screens for the sparkling, heroic exploits of pugilists of all shapes and sizes.

But do we blame our fathers, who taught us to religiously sit before the television set on Friday night, for this inexplicable penchant for the tragic inside the boxing ring?

"I guess I was already cognizant of my Filipino identity and could empathize with a fallen countryman," the letter-writer surmised.

Of course, the Roberto Cruz tragedy did not start and end with that outrageous dethronement.

Before Flash Elorde died in January 1985, late in 1984 after he had visibly given up the fight against lung cancer, the ring great recalled how he witnessed Cruz sobbing in his dugout minutes before the bout against Perkins.

Elorde confided to this reporter that Cruz tearfully admitted how he had failed to train properly for the title's all-important defense.

Elorde did not say it. But he hinted Cruz obviously got engulfed and drowned in the national euphoria that followed his crown triumph over Battling Torres.

He enjoyed the kingship and failed to train right. But there was no way he could pull out.

Years later, news spread around Cubao, Cruz's favorite turf during his reign as world champ, that he had been shot dead in a farm in Northern Luzon.

***

With Cruz down and out, Teddy Reynoso said, Elorde, the only remaining Filipino world champ, became the focus of his attention and adulation.

Elorde went on to successfully defend his world title against terrible opponents like Teruo Kosaka, Suh Kang Il and Love Allotey, a menacing Ghanian warrior.

But just like with the Robert Cruz tragedy, our letter-writer could not get over the times Elorde had blindly challenged Puerto Rican world lightweight king Carlos Ortiz—not only once, but twice.

Elorde lost on both occasions, first by a 14th round stoppage in Manila, and next via a more vicious knockout at the Madison Square Garden in New York.

Could Elorde have finally succeeded had he fought Ortiz a third or fourth time?

No way, confirmed *Mang* Tino Arispe, the amiable ring hand who had assisted Ortiz during training for the first Elorde fight.

The combatants were not of the same class, Elorde being a legit junior lightweight (130 lb), and Ortiz a cut-and-dry lightweight (135 lb).

Actually, the discrepancy was more awesome.

OK, *Mang* Tino said Ortiz would appear pale and famished during training when he would opt to eat only toasted bread soaked in thick beef broth. But after Ortiz had made the weight and he returned to the banquet table, the Porto Rican, now a big, full welterweight, would loom luminous and godlike on fight night, compared to our smaller, native idol, a mere mortal.

***

They tried to shrug off Elorde's two disastrous failures against Ortiz.

But the time local fight fans of that era dreaded most was when Elorde had to travel all the way to Tokyo to defend his world 130-pound crown against Yoshiaki Numata, a stylish Japanese who had earlier beaten Da Flash in an Oriental lightweight title clash.

Mr. Reynoso's account: It was a close fight, with Elorde forcing the action and Numata flicking away jabs. Then, in the middle rounds, Numata fell down. But the hometown glee was to be short-lived: The knockdown was ruled a slip. Elorde lost by split decision, a bitter verdict received with tears and regret at home.

Mr. Reynoso said Elorde's gallant try to reclaim the throne from Numata was dealt a fatal blow when the World Boxing Association promptly dropped him from the rankings.

Much later, the local Games and Amusements Board revoked Elorde's boxing license.

Next came a long line of bidders to relive the Elorde legend.

Luisito Espinosa, after a startling title triumph against Cobrita Gonzales in Guadalajara, had looked a worthy candidate.

He had the style and the golden moves. He, however, fumbled, no thanks to mindless management.

Last reported, both Manny Pacquiao and Gerry Peñalosa were still at it.

They are re-enrolling in a tested Hollywood-area boxing school in a bid to trace the golden footsteps of a legend who had never attended school.

Businessman shot dead in Quezon City ambush

By Agnes E. Donato

A BUSINESSMAN, who had survived an attempt on his life early this year, failed to make it alive after he was ambushed for the second time in Quezon City.

Charles Uy, 50, of Malaysia Street in Barnagay Maharlika, Quezon City died from three gunshot wounds in the body when an unidentified man shot him on Wednesday night while undergoing surgery at the United Doctors Medical Center, police said.

Police said the shooting was the second attempt on the life of Uy, who survived the first one early this year when unidentified gunmen fired at his car, but he was not on board.

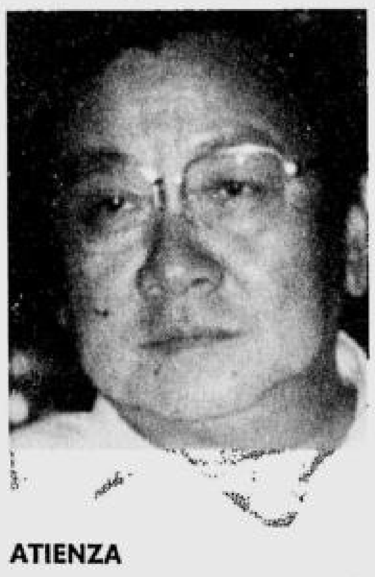
The fatal shooting occurred in front of Uy's residence at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, investigation showed.

Police said Uy was in his white Mitsubishi Lancer (Plate No. WAZ 650) and was about to enter his house when a maroon car blocked the vehicle's path.

An unidentified man armed with a .45 pistol alighted from the maroon car and shot Uy several times, police said. The suspect fled in his vehicle after seeing Uy had fallen bloodied in the front seat of his car, police said.

For protesters' protection, Atienza says policy of rally

By Jerome Aning and Philip Tubeza



ATIENZA

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza stood by his "no rally, no permit" policy to prevent a repeat of Monday's violent dispersal of protesters in front of the US Embassy.

WPD director Chief Supt. Pasinos also came under fire for allegedly hitting with a truncheon some of the members of the district's anti-riot squad who carried out Monday's violent dispersal.

Atienza's spokesman Armand Sebastian said the mayor does not share the view of some militant groups who argued that the measure is a restriction on their right to freedom of expression and assembly.

The mayor said the measure is meant to protect the protesters.

The spokesman said the mayor wants protesters to get a permit "so City Hall can guarantee that they will be able to freely exercise their rights."

"We want them to get a permit so they will be protected," Sebastian said. "Otherwise, they will be fair game to overzealous policemen."

Sebastian cited Monday's violent dispersal of some 20 members of the Youth for Nationalism and Democracy who picketed the US Embassy.

The police later claimed they received intelligence reports that the protesters were out to create trouble—which was why police had to disperse the protesters.

But the police explanation, Sebastian said, "is something (City Hall) cannot accept at face value."

If the protesters secured a permit, he explained, "it would have been easier for the city government to institute disciplinary measures against the erring policemen."

When WPD chief Pasinos tried to discipline his men, he was roundly criticized for allegedly resorting to brutal measures, "like hitting with a truncheon" one of his own men.

The Manila's Finest Brotherhood Inc. Association, composed of Manila policemen with a rank of SPO4 and below, criticized Pasinos for his public display of anger against the lawmen.

"He thinks the young WPD (anti-riot) policemen (failed to maintain) maximum tolerance, but it was (Pasinos) who forgot to exercise maximum tolerance when he behaved that way, while taking disciplinary measures (against his own men)," said the brotherhood in a statement yesterday.

"The WPD director lost his temper in front of the young officers of WPD when he should have set the example in controlling his temper," the group said. "Berating your men in public, and (to) even hit one in the head with a truncheon, is not the proper attitude of a superior officer."

Pangarap owes Caloocan City P20M, says Malonzo

By Agnes E. Donato

MALONZO

THE ONGOING dispute between businessman Greggy Araneta and residents of Pangarap Village has prevented the collection of taxes on the disputed property, which have ballooned to more than P20 million, according to Mayor Rey Malonzo.

The dispute had also placed Malonzo in a dilemma. If he were to demand payment from the Aranetas, this would "tantamount to recognizing them as the legitimate owners of the property," Malonzo said on Wednesday.

But he pointed out that should the Aranetas refuse to pay taxes if City Hall collected it from them, then the government could sequester the land and finally award it to the residents.

Malonzo had just arrived on Tuesday from a vacation in the United States. He was set to meet with residents of Pangarap yesterday to discuss developments in their fight for the property.

Tension rose in the Pangarap Village last week after Araneta had allegedly sent men to demolish at least 15 houses in the property. The residents have now blocked almost all of Araneta Avenue, where they are conducting a prayer vigil.

Martin Soriano, a Pangarap Village resident, said that some 150 military men arrived at the Araneta barracks on Tuesday night in three trucks.

"Apparently, they were sent to disperse the people who are holding a protest here," Soriano said.

Malonzo said that before he left the country, he and Interior Secretary Joey Lina had a meeting with Araneta to try to negotiate with him.

"Even then, Greggy Araneta was insistent about the demolitions," Malonzo said.

Araneta recently filed a case against Malonzo with the Ombudsman for his alleged refusal to stop the Pangarap residents from protesting against Araneta's takeover.

"The city government is in a 'damn-if-you-do, damn-if-you-don't' position right now. But we will do what we can to avoid any violence or further demolitions," Malonzo said.

House bill to settle ownership issue

REP. Prospero Nograles, chair of the House of Representatives committee on housing and urban development, has filed a measure that he said would resolve the ownership dispute over the 444-hectare National Government Center site in Constitutional Hills, Quezon City.

Nograles said House Bill No. 3953, the National Government Center Housing Act, would finally legitimize the land ownership claim of some 48,500 families residing in the area.

Nograles, who co-authored the bill with Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and Quezon City Rep. Ismael Mathay III, said the proposed measure would settle the issue involving 422 hectares of government land at the 444-hectare National Government Center.

The 444 hectares were reserved as a National Government Center site in 1979 by former President Marcos through Presidential Decree No. 1826.

Nograles said former Presidents Aquino and Ramos issued separate presidential proclamations appropriating 422 hectares of the site for disposition to bona fide residents but their actions were voided by the Supreme Court.

Bloody car turned . . .

From page A25

Supt. Efren Sindico, chief of the Las Piñas Criminal Investigation Division, yesterday said he would ask CIDG officials to turn over whatever evidence they would get from the car.

Sindico said he and his men have not recovered the spent shell from the Glock-type 9-mm pistol supposedly used to kill Abella.

Sindico said that on Monday, he wrote the Philippine National Police Firearm and Explosive Unit in Camp Crame to inquire if De Leon had a gun license. Javier said the unit has yet to respond to his inquiry.

Fiscal Mario Mangrobang on Tuesday issued a subpoena ordering De Leon to appear before his office on May 3 and answer the murder charge filed against her by the family of Abella.

The fiscal has 60 days in which to decide whether to bring the case to court after conducting a preliminary investigation.

According to police investigation, nurse Abella was in a BMW sedan at the BF International Village last Friday. De Leon's bodyguard and driver had told police that he saw De Leon come out of the car while holding a gun just after a gunshot was fired.

De Leon, the wife of businessman Jose Vicente de Leon of the prominent Madrigal clan, has not surfaced since the shooting, but her lawyers had denied she was in hiding.

Seminar on ADHD

THE TELEPHONE number to call regarding the Teacher-Mom seminar on "Understanding Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)" was incorrectly printed here earlier.

The correct number is 899-3678. Inquiries may also be sent to *mcsc@hotmail.com*.

The seminar will be on April 26, 2002, on 3rd floor of the session hall of the old Makati City Hall on J.P. Rizal Street in Makati City. The seminar is being conducted by the Foundation for Children's Educational Integration Inc. Teacher-Mom, in cooperation with the Makati Social Welfare Department.

The seminar speakers will be Dr. Leticia Penaho-Ho, clinical psychologist, consultant and dean of special education, University of the Philippines;

Psychologist Martha R. Tan, and Cristy Canizares-Gacuma, school director of FCEII-Teacher Mom.

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6	SCORPION KING
7	MIMIC 2
8	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
9	S2PID LUV
10	RIPPER
11	BLADE 2
12	MONTE CRISTO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	SCORPION KING
2	SHOWTIME
3	SCORPION KING
4	SNOW DOGS
5	ICE AGE
6	DEEP END
7	TIME MACHINE
8	RIPPER
9	S2PID LUV
10	BLADE 2
11	MONTE CRISTO
12	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	DEEP END
2	SHOWTIME
3	MASARAP...
4	S2PID LUV
5	RIPPER
6	SNOW DOGS
7	SCORPION KING
8	SCORPION KING
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	BLADE2
2	ICE AGE
3	SCORPION KING
4	SHOWTIME
5	E.T.
6	DEEP END
7	S2PID LUV
8	SCORPION KING
9	SNOW DOGS
10	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	KADAU GAN SA MACTAN
2	SCORPION KING
3	ROYAL TENENBAUMS
4	MAJESTIC
5	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
6	BANDITS
7	S2PID LUV
8	SCORPION KING

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MAJESTIC
2	CLOSED
3	BANDITS
4	S2PID LUV
5	ROYAL TENENBAUMS
6	SCORPION KING
7	CLOSED
8	ITLOG

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	SCORPION KING
2	HART'S WAR
3	BLADE2
4	ICE AGE
5	SCORPION KING
6	S2PID LUV

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294075

1	RIPPER
2	SCORPION KING
3	MIMIC 2
4	S2PID LUV

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
2	SCORPION KING
3	S2PID LUV

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	SCORPION KING
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	S2PID LUV
4	SNOW DOGS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976098

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	BANDITS
4	WE WERE SOLDIERS
5	EVIL WOMAN
6	SCORPION KING

SM BICUTAN

1	*SOON TO OPEN!*
2	*4 NEW*
3	*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
4	*VISION & SOUND*

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	*SOON TO OPEN!*
2	*4 NEW*
3	*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
4	*VISION & SOUND*

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1	*SOON TO OPEN!*
2	*2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND*

6389781-85

Movies are subject to [illegible] without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS

ARTFILM - GREENBELT

OPENS TODAY!

Javier Bardem Olivier Martinez Andrea Di Stefano
Johnny Depp & Sean Penn

"'**Before Night Falls**' is rapturous, intoxicating filmmaking... Don't miss it! Javier Bardem gives a mesmerizing and inspired performance!"
-Rex Reed, New York Observer

"'**Before Night Falls**' is a potent, visually stunning masterpiece! Javier Bardem gives a riveting, emotionally naked performace."
-Guy Flatley, Interview

WINNER!

Best Male Lead , **2001 Independent Spirit Awards**
Grand Jury Prize, Best Actor , **2000 Venice International Film Festival**
Best Actor (Bardem), **2000 National Board of Review**
Best Actor (Bardem), **2001 National Society of Film Critics**

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R) Strictly For Adults

WARNING! This film is unanimously rated R-18 for its adult thematic content which is Homosexuality and scenarios of NUDITY.

NOKIA SKYFILMS

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	DEEP END
2 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4 GOLD (DTS)	SHOWTIME
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SNOW DOG
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
8	S2PID LUV
9	MONTE CRISTO
10	BLADE 2

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	HOT DOG
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	HARTS WAR
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	RIPPER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SNOW DOGS
5	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	IKA PITONG GLORIA
3	S2PID LUV
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5	DEEP END
6	SCORPION KING
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	SCORPION KING

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	ICE AGE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	BUBOT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HOT DOG THE MOVIE
A	SNAKE CHARMER

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	ITLOG
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
2	
3	
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5	S2PID LUV
6	PAROLA
7 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
8 (SDDS)	DEEP END
9 (DOLBY)	RIPPER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3761

1	S2PID LUV
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
5	SNOW DOG
6 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
7 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
8	PAROLA
9	SHOWTIME

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
6	S2PID LUV
7 (DOLBY)	SNOW DOGS
8	BLADE 2

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	S2PID LUV
2	BLADE 2
3 (DTS)	SNOW DOG
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SCORPION KING

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SCORPION KING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	PAROLA
Lords	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PAROLA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	S2PID LUV
5	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	SCORPION KING
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	S2PID LUV
2	BANDITS
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DTS)	BANDITS
3 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
4	EVIL WOMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	BANDITS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	S2PID LUV
2	MONTE CRISTO
3 (DOLBY)	BANDITS
4 (DTS)	E T

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	S2PID 2
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	SNAKE CHARMER
4 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SNAKE CHARMER
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	BLADE2

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	BLOW DRY

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	BLOW DRY

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TIME MACHINE
2	E.T.
3	ITLOG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
2 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	TIME MACHINE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

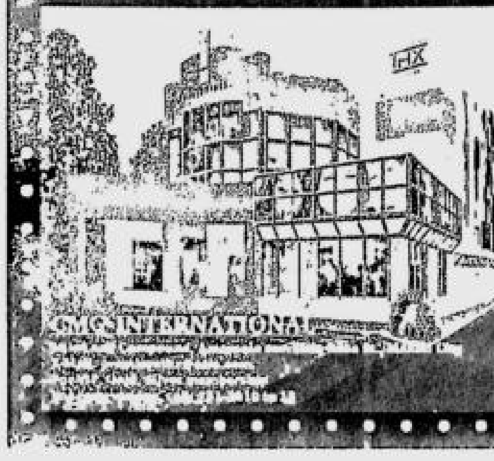
1	EVIL WOMAN
2	MAJESTIC
3	BLADE 2
4	MIMIC 2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	BLOW DRY

***Movies are subject to change without prior notice**

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



PREMIERE THX **OPENS TODAY!**

THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	**SCORPION KING**
2	**SCORPION KING**
3	**SCORPION KING**
4	**DEEP END**
5	**SNOW DOGS**
6	**MONTE CRISTO**
7	**ICE AGE**
8	**SHOW TIME**
9	**RIPPER**
10	**BLADE 2**

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	**SCORPION KING**
2	**RIPPER**
3	**SHOWTIME**
4	**DEEP END**
5	**S2PID LUV**
6	**SNOW DOGS**
7	**SCORPION KING**

Metro East -
Marcos Fway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	**SCORPION KING**
2	**SCORPION KING**
3	**SHOWTIME**
4	**SNOW DOGS**
5	**ICE AGE**
6	**S2PID LUV**
7	**BLADE 2**
8	**RIPPER**

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	**SCORPION KING**
2	**SCORPION KING**
3	**SHOWTIME**
4	**RIPPER**
5	**E.T.**
6	**BLADE 2**
7	**ICE AGE**
8	**S2PID LUV**

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	**SCORPION KING**
2	**SCORPION KING**
3	**S2PID LUV**
4	**SNOW DOGS**
5	**RIPPER**
6	**MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL**

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	**SCORPION KING**
2	**BANDITS**
3	**MAJESTIC**
4	**MONTE CRISTO**
5	**ROYAL TENEBAUMS**
6	**ALI**

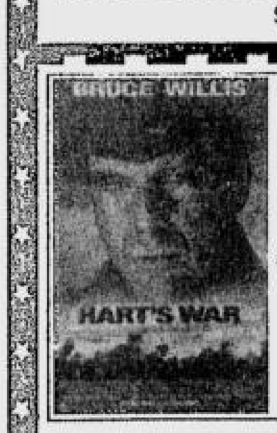
Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	**SCORPION KING**
2	**BANDITS**
3	**MAJESTIC**
4	**QUEEN OF THE DUMNED**
5	**MONTE CRISTO**
6	**E.T.**

Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	**SCORPION KING**
2	**SCORPION KING**
3	**S2PID LUV**
4	**HARTS WAR**
5	**EVIL WOMAN**
6	**EVIL WOMAN**

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.



Late Night Screening

on
April 12 & 13, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Film on denizens of inbred worldwith neurotically big-hair aspirations

(From page A31)

me of movies!

Director **Peter Bogdanovich**:Barbra Streisand is a real kvetch, always moaning about something or other, a really hard-to-please lady. But when she's kvetching, I just say, "stick out your boobs, they're beautiful." After that, she's fine for the next 10 minutes.

Helena Bonham Carter: In "Mighty Aphrodite," **Woody Allen** didn't just keep his clothes on under the sheets during our bed scene, he kept his shoes on, too. When I asked him why, he said it was in case there was a fire and he had to run!

Free entrance

THROUGHOUT April and May, Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar on Mindanao ave. corner Congressional ave. in Quezon City offers free entrance to its nightly band shows. Grilled seafood is the restaurant's special culinary attraction.

Every Thursday night, the restaurant presents the Mr. and Ms Superbody bikini Contest. The Grand Finals will be held at Beachcomber in Boracay. Prospective contestants are invited to call 722-9981.

Show world

MUSIC legend **Bob Dylan** is already 60 years old, but that isn't keeping from beckoning again.

In his first major film role in 15 years, Dylan will be topbilling the Intermedia Films musical drama, "Masked and Anonymous," as a wandering troubadour who is brought out of prison for one last concert.

The film will make use of some of Dylan's songs. Dylan's last major film performance was in the 1987 release, "Hearts of Fire."

Meanwhile, "Cats," London's musical hit by **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, will be closing on May 11, its 21st "birthdays." It is the West End's longest-running musical. Filipino actor-singer Junix Inocian plays a featured role in the popular production, the script of which was inspired by some poems by **T.S. Eliot**.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SNOW DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DEEP END
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	RIPPER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	SHOWTIME
ODEON-2	RIPPER
ROBEN	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	HOT DOG
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR-2	ITLOG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	S2PID LUV
B	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HART'S WAR
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOTDOG
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
CINEMA-7	E.T.
CINEMA-8	BLADE 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-12	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-14	RIPPER
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-2	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-3	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-4	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-5	DEEP END
CINEMA-6	SCORPION KING
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS TODAY
SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE U.S.
MTRCB Rating ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
FROM THE MAKERS OF THE MUMMY AND THE MUMMY RETURNS!

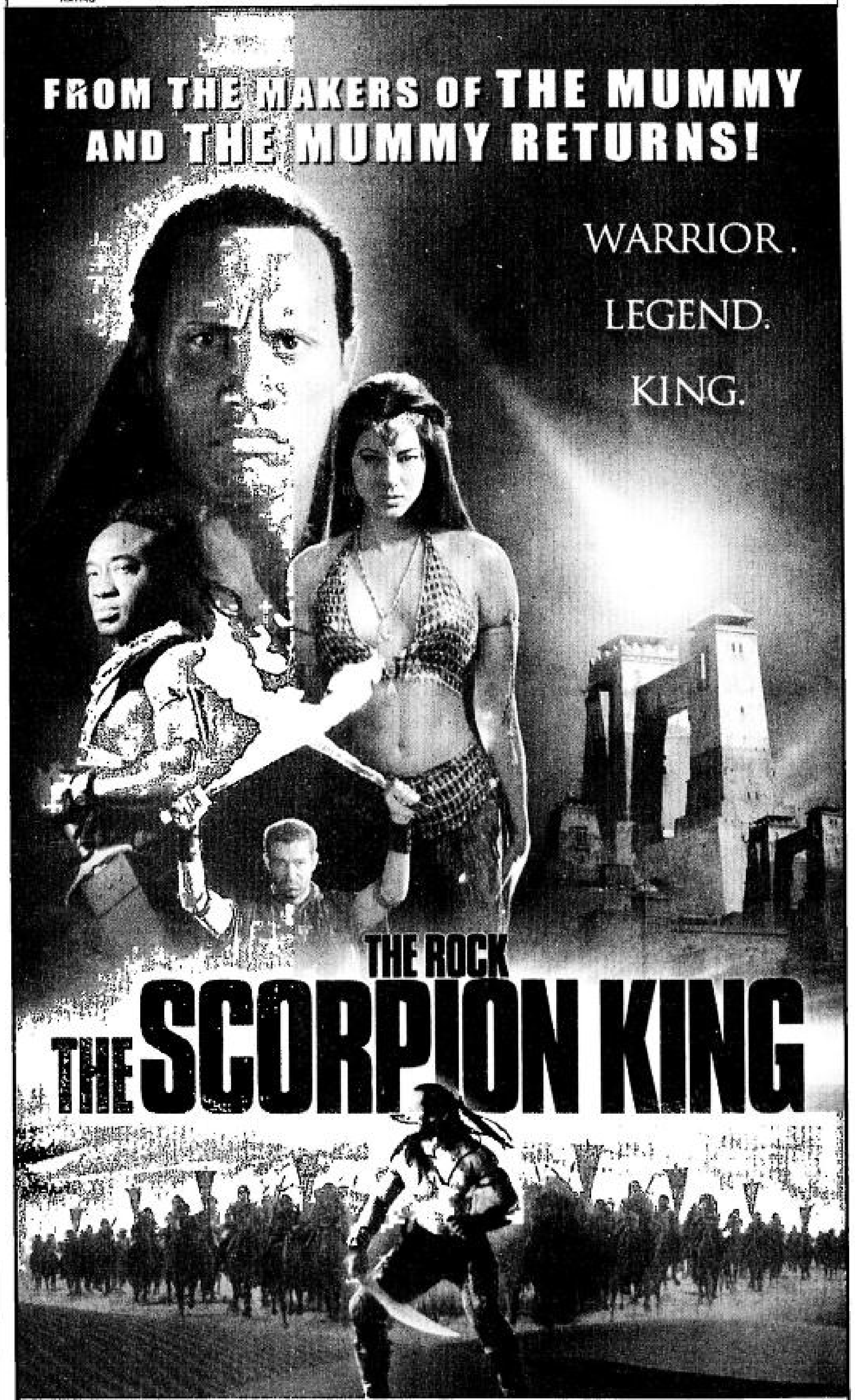
WARRIOR. LEGEND. KING.
THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING

EXPERIENCE A UNIQUE CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE AT
the all-digital-sound
AYALA CINEMAS
THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS Sony Dynamic Digital Sound

SCREENING SCHEDULES
GLORIETTA 4 cinema 1 - 12:30pm, 2:30 , 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 LMF
GLORIETTA 4 cinema 3 (THX/Guaranteed Seat)- 11:15am, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15 LMF
GLORIETTA 4 cinema 6 - 12:00nn , 2:00pm , 4:00 , 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00mn LMF
GLORIETTA 1 cinema 1 - 11:00 am , 1:00 pm , 3:00 , 5:00 , 7:00 , 9:00 LMF
GLORIETTA 1 cinema 3 - 10:30 am , 12:30 pm , 2:30 , 4:30 , 6:30 , 8:30 LMF
GREENBELT cinema 2 - 11:50 am , 1:50 pm , 3:50 , 5:50 , 7:50 , 9:50 LMF
ALABANG TOWN CENTER cinema (THX)1 -12:30pm,2:30,4:30,6:30,8:30,10:30LMF
ALABANG TOWN CENTER cinema 2 - 12:00nn, 2:00pm, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 LMF
ALABANG TOWN CENTER cinema 3 - 11:30pm , 1:30 , 3:30 , 5:30 , 7:30 , 9:30 LMF

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
PHILIPS Pizza Hut united international pictures VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729-7777

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


FROM THE MAKERS OF THE MUMMY AND THE MUMMY RETURNS!
WARRIOR.
LEGEND.
KING.
THE ROCK
THE SCORPION KING

united international pictures VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
OPENS TODAY!
SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE WITH THE U.S.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MONTE CRISTO-P13 1:45, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30	SCORPION KING- P 13 11:00, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20	SNOW DOGS - GP 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30
SHOWTIME - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30,5:40, 7:50, 10:00	DEEP END - R18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	SCORPION KING-P13 12:00, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8;15, 10:20

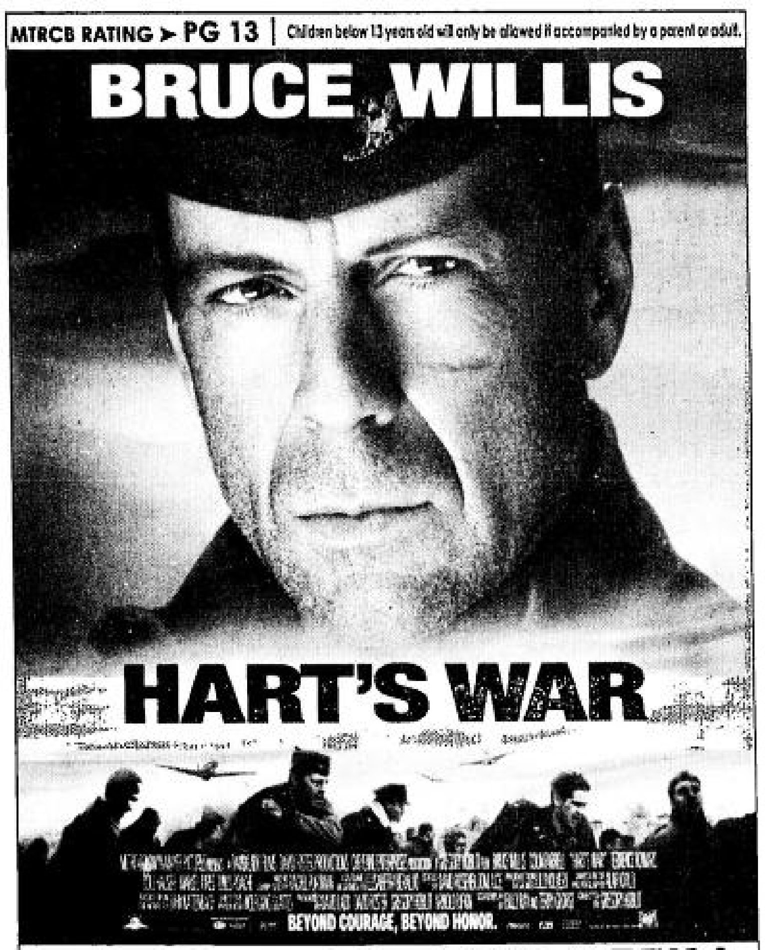
MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

#1 COMEDY HIT IN THE U.S.!
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

CUBA GOODING JR.
DISNEY'S
JAMES COBURN
SNOW DOGS
BRIAN LEVANT
Walt Disney Pictures

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



NOW ON IT'S SECOND WEEK !

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

EDDIE MURPHY
ROBERT DENIRO
On alert. On patrol. On camera.
SHOWTIME
VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES

SPECIAL THANKS TO

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Film on denizens of inbred world with neurotically big-hair aspirations

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHO would have thought that someone would make a film about hairstylists? Well, "Shampoo" with **Waren Beatty** was one such movie, but it limited itself to Beathy's lead character, while this new film, "Blow Dry," is about many hairdressers participating in an England-wide national styling competition.

Initially, the concept seems a bit weird, but the movie soon comes into its own as an interesting study of the emotionally eventful lives of the artists and charlatans in the superficial world of competitive hairstyling.

The subplots involve a former champion hairstylist who opts to relocate to a small town after his wife (**Natasha Richardson**) runs away with a lesbian model; two veteran rivals whose offspring fall for each other in a "hairy" version of Romeo and Juliet; and competitors who resort to every dirty, trick in the book just to demolish the competition by hook, crook or teasing comb.

These subplots are a bit chintzy, but don't say that to the members of the cast, who take them ever so seriously.

Besides, when the plot's frayed ends show, there's always the competition element of the movie to provide occasional visual highlights. Cannily, the film divides the hairstyling competition into different sub-contests with different themes, so the championship hairstyles we get to see are wonderfully varied.

The winning styles succeed in proving that hairdressers *can* be artists, as the hairdos they whip up combine props, painting, sculpture, and even costume and production design in fantastic, unusual, mini-universes that are their own cause for being.

Like "Strictly Ballroom," the campy appeal of "Blow Dry" is in its obsessively detailed depiction of the denizens of a very small, inbred world with neurotically big-hair aspirations. That's all it is, and all it needs to be.

The standout performance in "Blow Dry" is given by Natasha Richardson, who makes of her role as a cancer patient more than others would make of it, without coming off as excessively melodramatic.

Josh Hartnett also gets some thespic licks in as this movie's ersatz Romeo. He doesn't play a hunk or action hero here, just a young champion barber. And he affects as cockney accent of sorts that he pulls off quite well.

Mother's Day on Cartoon Network

THE CARTOON Network is celebrating Mother's Day with the 'tooniest' moms on earth in half-hour cartoon treats from May 6 to 11 (at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.).

Featured moms include Johnny Bravo's mama Bunny, Dexter and Dee De's loving mother in "Dexter's Laboratory," Stone Age mom Wilma Flinstone, and the sexy and talented space-age homemaker Jane in "The Jetsons."

The fun peaks on Mother's Day, May 12, with a three-hour "mom-athon" (from 8 to 11 a.m.) of cartoons focusing on mothers.

New series

THE NEW series on the Cartoon Network starting on May 1 is "The All New Popeye Show." The lovable, spinach-powered sailor continues to hold the upper hand in his battles with Pluto, but Olive Oyl still twirls him around her little finger.

"The All New Popeye Show" is telecast M-TH, 3-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.' Fridays, 3-4 p.m.; weekends 4-5 p.m.

And the new franchise on the network is "Power Zone," starting May 27, weekdays at 4 p.m. This compilation show on super-heroes will feature "The Real Adventures of Captain Planet," "Centurions" and "Swat Kats."

Shooting the breeze

MOVIEGOERS have fun when they're watching a film, but stars have a better time when they're shooting it—and an even bitchier time when they talk about it afterwards. Some breezy recollections:

Drew Barrymore: I couldn't stand **Chris O'donnell** when we met on the set of "Batman Forever." He was such a jock, such a frat boy, the kind of guy who expects you to be impressed by the labels on his clothes. I think he resented that I'd been in Hollywood so long. Good thing, we did become sort of friends later own.

Kris Kristofferson: Filming with **Barbra Streisand** was an experience that may have cured

FILM/ A30

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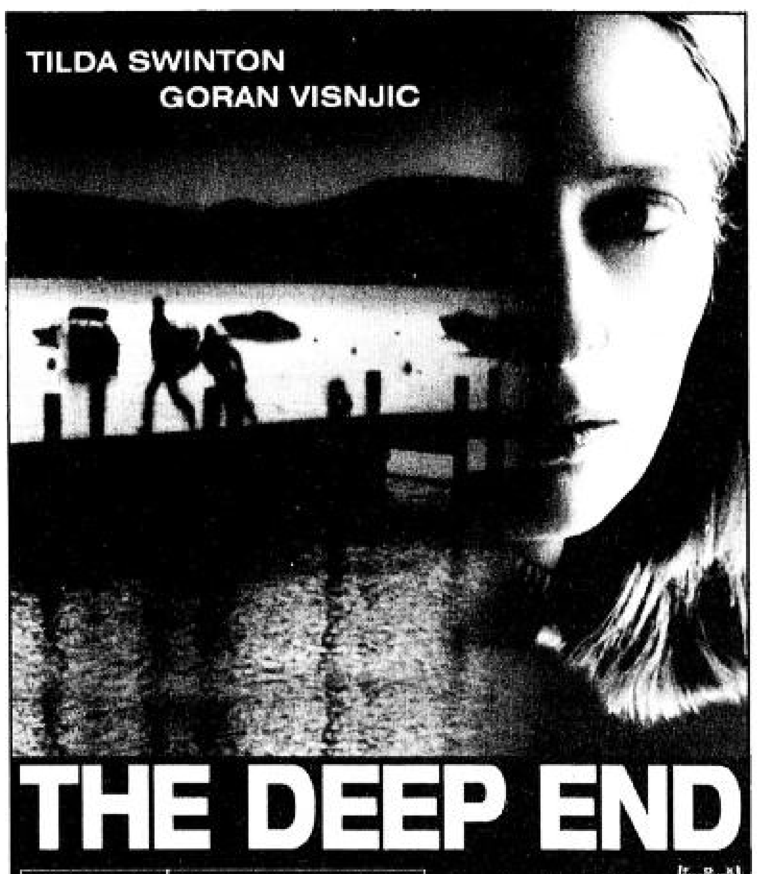

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				5 SNOW DOGS

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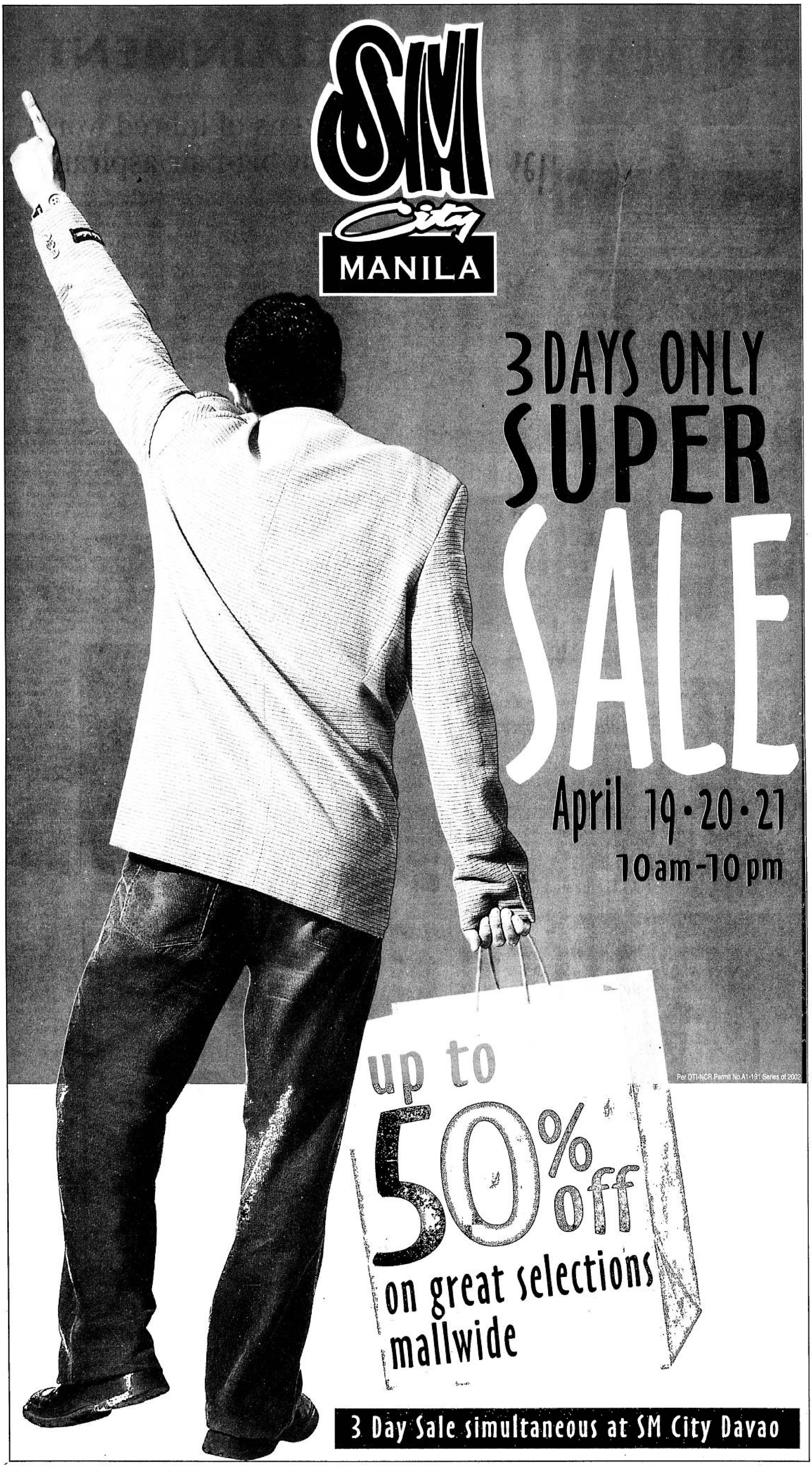

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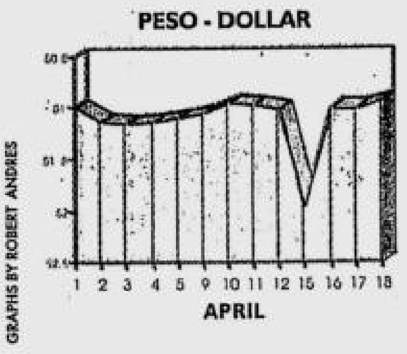


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.94 =$1

As of 5 p.m., April 18, 2002

¥130.39/42=$1

As of 5 p.m., April 18, 2002

GOLD: $302.30/302.80

per ounce Hong Kong,
April 18, 2002

April 18, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.123722	1.000000	51.0020
Japan	Yen	0.008594	0.007648	0.3901
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623553	1.444800	73.6877
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144078	0.128215	6.5392
Switzerland	Franc	0.680343	0.605437	30.8785
Canada	Dollar	0.713611	0.635042	32.3884
Singapore	Dollar	0.614727	0.547046	27.9004
Australia	Dollar	0.603179	0.536769	27.3763
Bahrain	Dinar	2.980853	2.652661	135.2910
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299667	0.266674	13.6009
Brunei	Dollar	0.611383	0.544070	27.7487
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000106	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025940	0.023084	1.1773
UAE	Dirham	0.305983	0.272294	13.8875
Korea	Won	0.000859	0.000764	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.889900	45.3867
Brazil	Real	0.485619	0.432152	22.0406
Denmark	Kroner	0.134441	0.119639	6.1018
India	Rupee	0.022999	0.020467	1.0439
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.295716	0.263158	13.4216
Mexico	New Peso	0.121826	0.108413	5.5293
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498811	0.443892	22.6394
Norway	Kroner	0.130754	0.116358	5.9345
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018759	0.016694	0.8514
South Africa	Rand	0.100875	0.089769	4.5784
Sweden	Kroner	0.109408	0.097362	4.9657
Syria	Pound	0.025539	0.022727	1.1591
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032235	0.028686	1.4630
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001277	0.001136	0.0579

STOCK MARKET

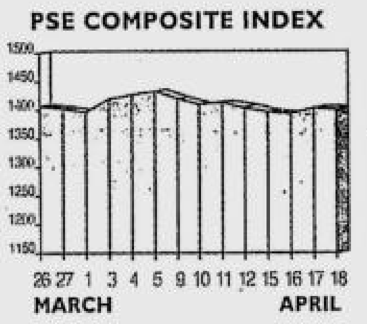
Shares fall due to profit-taking

SHARE prices fell 0.2 percent yesterday on profit-taking after an upturn the previous day, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 2.63 points to 1,401.78.

"We saw some profit-taking on select issues particularly some blue chips and second liners," said Lawrence de Leon of KGI Securities Inc.

Volume rose to 315.71 million shares while value jumped to P993.18 million from 285 million shares worth P782 million. *AFP*



(See stock market report on Page B4)

By Doris C. Dumlao

A SHARP rebound in purchases of electronics allowed the Philippines to post a positive albeit minimal 0.6-percent growth in imports in February from a year ago, finally reversing a seven-month slowdown and boosting hopes of an imminent recovery in exports.

The pick-up in imports for February was a strong turnaround from the annual contraction of 18.7 percent reported in January, which stood as the worst contraction in seven years.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the growth in imports to $2.21 billion and the 6.3-percent decline in exports to $2.63 billion from their respective year-ago levels yielded a trade surplus of $421 million for the month, down by 31.2 percent from the previous year.

Payments for electronics and components, which accounted for 24 percent of imports, rose 41.6 percent as against the 19.3-percent drop recorded in January.

"I think the trend remains upward for imports in the coming months," said David Cohen at MMS/S&P in Singapore. "This is very encouraging. Economic activity is picking up."

"The growth came from electronics and other raw material for exports. This is a good sign for our manufacturing sector. Particularly, electronics exports should be on the way to recovery," AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan said.

The electronics export sector is traditionally the country's biggest dollar earner, generating more than half of total export earnings.

The country's total payment for raw materials and intermediate goods consisting of unprocessed raw materials and semi-processed raw materials went up by 16.7 percent, accounting for 41.8 percent of the total import bill.

Capital goods, which accounted for 39.4 percent of the total bill, likewise increased by 0.2 percent, led by telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery.

Vistan also noted that another positive sign for the global electronic sector was the 100 percent rise in profits chalked up by US-based chip manufacturer Intel Corp.

"I think that from all these indicators, exports will start recovering. By this month or next, export earnings will post flat or moderate growth," Vistan said.

Mike Ordinanza, an analyst with PCI Capital Corp., said the turnaround in imports would likely translate to a sustainable recovery in exports by the second semester of this year. During the second quarter, he said import figures would still likely be erratic.

"It may not immediately be reflected in export figures but I hope it will improve local production. So far, domestic consumption has been robust and this is what I expect to be the factor that will boost the country's GDP (gross domestic product),"

FEBRUARY/ B2

US rebound to pull up ailing RP banks—S&P

THE REBOUND of the US economy will pull up the credit profiles of Philippine banks which have been weighed down by a growing burden of non-performing loans (NPLs), Standard and Poor's said yesterday.

"The flow-through effect of the recent US economic rebound on the export-oriented economies of Asia may help the credit profiles of the banks in the Philippines to bottom out at the end of the year," S&P said in a statement.

The rating agency said NPLs, including restructured loans, accounted for about 25-30 percent of the local banking sector's gross loan book, adding that "the weakened position of the country's banks continues to support the view that the outlook for the sector remains negative."

But S&P financial services analyst Sim Wee Kiat said there were signs "better prospects for the economy may see the banks' financial profile bottoming out towards end-2002."

He did not give any forecast for the banking sector's NPL ratio.

In September last year, S&P expressed concern over the Philippine banking system's asset quality.

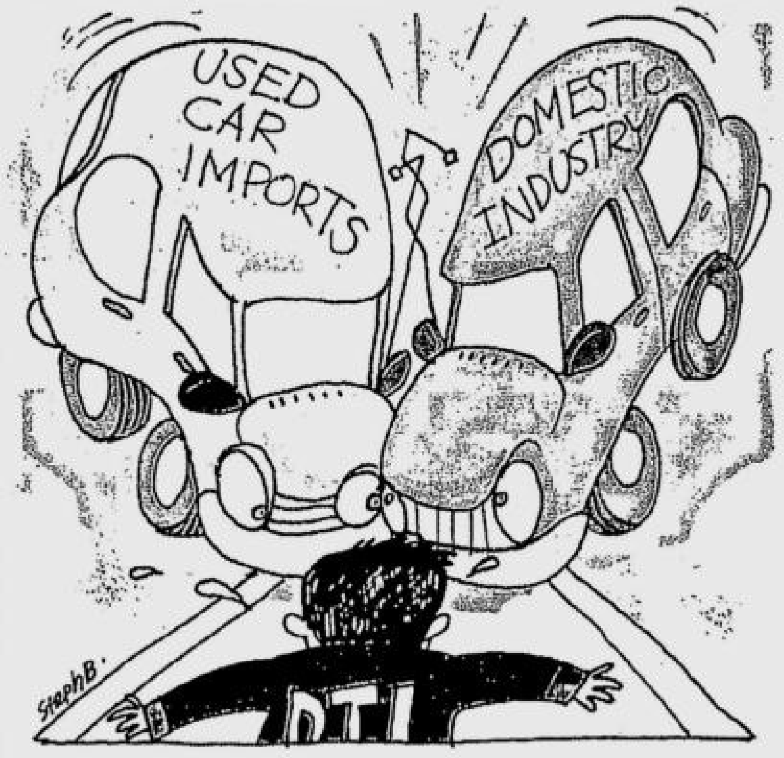
The government is rushing legislation that will enable foreigners to acquire bad loans of local banks, easing the NPL burden.

The ratings agency's remarks were contained in a new report titled "US Economic Rebound Positive for Asian Banks"by senior banking analysts based across the region.

"A year ago, we warned that if Asia's economic slowdown was worse than expected, many of the region's weaker banks would be severely tested. Fortunately, the US economic rebound has been quicker and stronger than expected," said Ian Thompson, managing director of financial services ratings at S&P's Melbourne office.

The regional banking report is accompanied by a related article titled "Low Recovery Rates Exacerbate Problem Assets for Banks in Emerging Asia."

S&P is a leader in providing widely recognized financial data, analytical research and investment and credit opinions to the global capital markets. In the Asia-Pacific region, it has been voted most influential ratings agency by Finance Asia magazine. *AFP*



Total ban on imports of used vehicles pushed

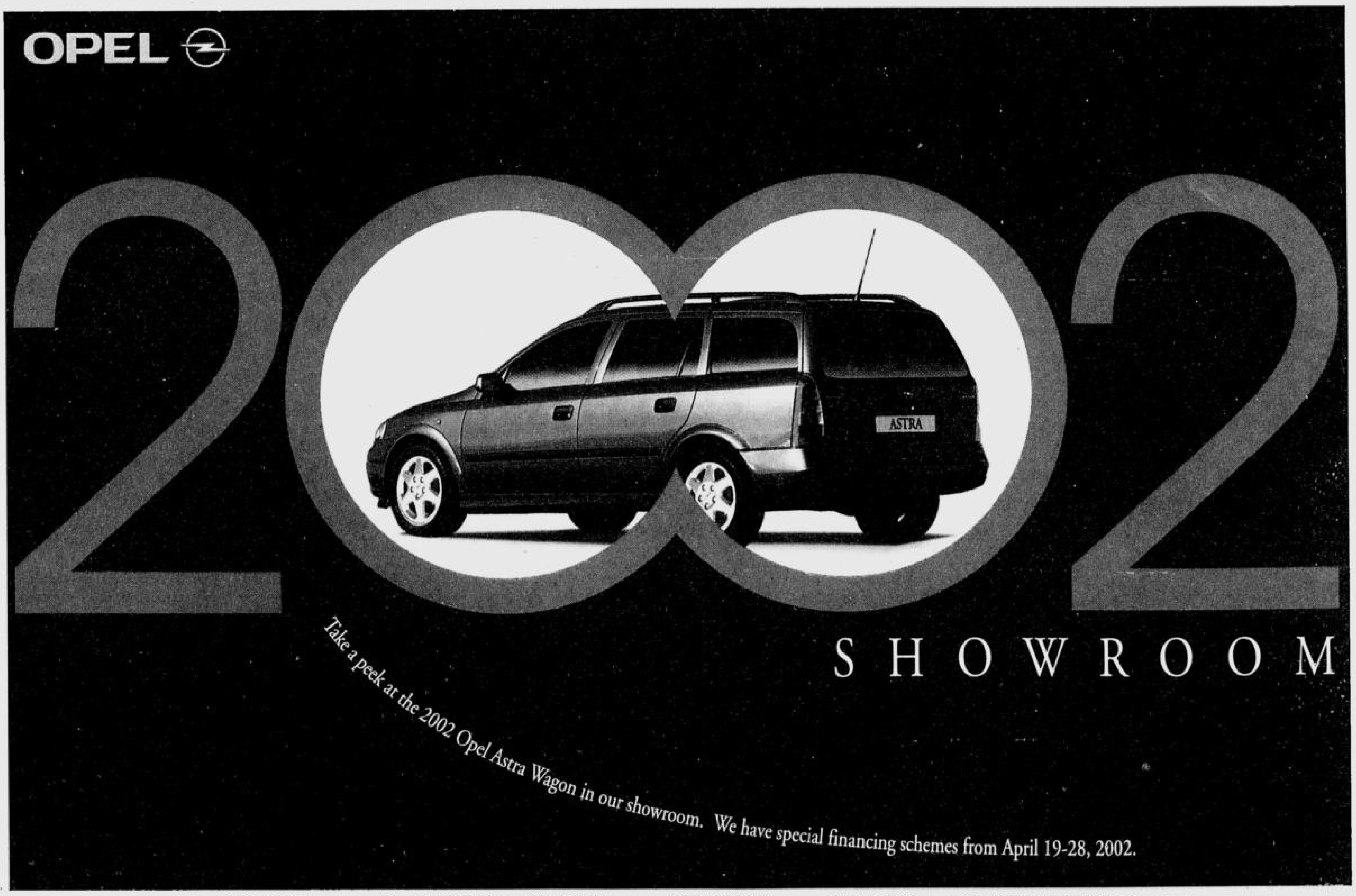
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE JAPANESE Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) is urging the Department of Trade and Industry to immediately resolve the stalemate on used vehicle imports to ease the woes of new vehicle assemblers.

JCCI president Shoichi Kameyama said the Japanese and American assemblers were still awaiting Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II to fulfill his commitment to ban used vehicle imports.

Kameyama said the Philippine

TOTAL/ B2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EARNINGS COMPUTATION

BSP going easy on banks

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas will issue a new circular allowing banks to include in their loan portfolio real and other properties owned or acquired (Ropoa) in computing their loans-to-deposits ratio.

This policy, recently approved by the policy-making policy Monetary Board, will enable many banks to meet the 75 percent loans-to-deposits ratio that the central bank required.

Several banks, according to BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes, have been posting lower loans-to-deposits ratio as bank lending remained low. He said banks were cautious in extending loans to small clients while big borrowers continued to shy away from banks.

An analyst criticized the policy saying it would only tolerate current bank practice of not lending aggressively. Reyes, for his part, defended the move saying it should help in the recovery of many banks, which was the more pressing issue at this point in time.

Prior to the Monetary Board decision, assets foreclosed under loan settlement do not form part of the banks' loan portfolio in computing the loans-to-deposit ratio.

Banks have asked the Monetary Board to ease the requirements in computing their financial ratio considering that banks have not been able to lend aggressively.

Banks that are unable to meet any of the financial ratios required by the BSP face disqualification from the central bank's various lending facilities, including rediscounting window.

"We have to help banks when their bad loans are rising and when there are not much opportunities to lend," said the central bank official.

Reyes said the banks' Ropoa was not included in the computation of the loans-to-deposit ratio because this account was still too small when the financial ratio was formulated.

"At that time, the banks' Ropoa and non-performing loans problems were not significant, thus, this was not taken into account. If you consider the definition of loans and that Ropoas were acquire because of these loans, it will seem logical to include them (Ropoas) in the computation," said Reyes.

The other day, Reyes said the BSP was considering reviewing its policy on how banks compute their earnings. He said the BSP might also temporarily lift its restrictions on window dressing.

GMA order on port rate rollback sought

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry is pressing Malacañang to expedite the issuance of a formal order rolling back the 20-percent increase in cargo handling rates imposed by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) since February last year.

PCCI president Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr. said President Macapagal-Arroyo has yet to issue an order more than a month after her adviser, Luis Lorenzo, announced the rollback during the 4th Mindanao Food Congress in Cagayan de Oro City.

Ortiz-Luis said the rollback was the least the government could do to help domestic and export industries get back on solid footing after getting battered last year.

Ortiz-Luis said the 10- to 15-percent increase in port charges in February 2001 and the 10-percent hike approved in January "were arbitrary as these were done without due process."

"Our members, who make up the bulk of port users, have not been consulted before the rate hikes were made. The petitioners were granted the rate hikes even without submitting financial statements to back up their petitions," Ortiz-Luis said.

He said PPA's port charges were one of the highest in the region and that providers should first improve their services and facilities before asking for a rate hike.

Cargo handling costs have gone up by 80 percent for foreign cargoes and 52 percent for domestic cargoes from 1998 to 2002. These were approved "unconscionably and capriciously" by PPA without regard to the situation of port users and sometimes without even waiting for cargo handlers to petition for an increase, he said.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
METRO MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

STRADCOM CORPORATION
(Registrant)

REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 12 April 2002, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of STRADCOM CORPORATION for the registration of up to ₱1,200,000,000.00 worth of Secured Floating Rate Information Technology Bonds due 5 years and 1 day from date of issue, to be offered at par value.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers and directors of the corporation:

Name	Position
Cezar T. Quiambao	Chairman of the Board of Directors
Jaime B. Aquino	Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors
Jose A. Chua	President and Chief Executive Officer/Director
Ramon G. Reyes	Chief Operating Officer/Director
Oscar A. Cabading	Treasurer/Director
Conrado C. Legaspi, Jr.	Director
Ramon M. Borromeo	Director
Jose M. Magno III	Director
Benjamin N. Libarnes	Director
Ray C. Espinosa	Director
Raul C. Pagdanganan	Chief Finance Officer
Jose L. Carlos	Chief Information Officer
Eric Gene C. Pilapil	Corporate Secretary/Chief Legal Officer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

FIT-ED OPENS MAKATI OFFICE

President Macapagal-Arroyo recently inaugurated the office of the Foundation for Information Technology Education and Development (FIT-ED) located at Philam Tower, Makati City. With the President were (standing, from left) Emmanuel Lallana, FIT-ED vice president and executive director; Evangelina M. Arroyo, FIT-ED director of operations; Jose B. Baylon, Coca-Cola director for external affairs; (seated, from left) James Harting, Coca-Cola president for Philippine operations, and Roberto R. Romulo, FIT-ED chair.

Overseas workers group seeks resumption of RP-UAE air talks

By Abigail L. Ho

OVERSEAS Filipino workers, especially those based in Dubai, and their relatives have urged the Civil Aeronautics Board to reconsider its decision to postpone air talks with the United Arab Emirates.

In a statement issued Thursday, the Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino Inc. (Kakammpi) said it "disturbed" them that the CAB decided to postpone talks that could have resulted in more Manila-Dubai flights when demand for such flights was really high.

"With the number of OFWs based in the Middle East on the rise, there is indeed a pressing need to increase the number of flights between the Philippines and Middle East," it said.

"We strongly urge CAB members to reconsider its decision postponing the talks. CAB should consider the interests of our OFWs and the country, which stand to benefit the most from the increase in entitlements," it added.

Around 70 percent of the 150,000 OFWs in the UAE were based in Dubai. The number is expected to further increase as more infrastructure projects were lined up for implementation in Dubai, Kakammpi said.

In an earlier interview, Emirates Airlines senior general manager for commercial operations for West Asia and the Pacific Rim Keith Longstaff said these infrastructure and development projects were projected to generate around 30,000 jobs.

Even without these new job openings, though, Dubai-based OFWs were already having difficult time booking flights, especially during the peak season because of the inadequate number of flights.

At present, Emirates flies only six times a week to Dubai, with its aircraft almost 85-percent filled during those flights.

Local flag carrier Philippine Airlines does not service the route. Instead, PAL has a three-flight code-sharing agreement with the Dubai carrier.

An industry source earlier that should the Philippine air panel grant Dubai the additional eight flights a week it was asking the Philippine government, the airline would no longer need to code-share with PAL.

Kakammpi, however, said that it was the Philippines that might lose millions of dollars in remittances if the OFWs' needs—like more flight frequencies—would not be addressed.

"Last year, our OFWs remitted a hefty $6 billion with the OFWs in the Middle East contributing about $500 million," it said.

The country also stands to lose revenues from trade and tourism if additional flights to Dubai will not be given to the UAE air panel, a source said.

February imports . . .

From page B1

Ordinanza said.

Ordinanza said he expected Philippine GDP, or the total amount of goods and services produced by the local economy, to expand by 4.12 percent in the first quarter from 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2001.

"I'm bullish for the full year," Ordinanza said, noting that the government was successful in bringing down interest rates, which would help perk up economic activities.

Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc., said: "I think this proves the theory that the electronics sector has bottomed out. And this means that probably there will be more jobs to be created and the economy will be much better by the second half of the year."

Imports from the United States, the country's biggest trading partner, rose by 22.4 percent for the period, accounting for 21.8 percent of the total bill. Japan followed with a 21-percent share.

The data appears to tie-in with forecasts by economists that monthly figures for Philippine exports would begin to post year-on-year increases early in the second quarter.

In 2001, exports were down 15 percent as the economies of Japan and the United States, the Philippines' biggest trading partners, slowed and global demand for electronics contracted.

The government hopes for a 1.0-1.5 percent increase in exports this year.

Cohen said if more encouraging data came in, he may revise growth estimates.

"We have been a bit conservative with our GDP projections for this year with a figure of 3.5 percent against the government's 4.5 (percent)," he said. "If the data keeps coming in like this we may have to adjust our forecast up."

Andrew Fung, head of research for Rabobank in Singapore, said the slide in imports had most probably bottomed out, although he said an export recovery was not likely until the third quarter.

"I would read it quite favorably, it looks like it is bottoming out (the slide in imports) which is probably consistent with the country's relatively robust consumption data," he said.

"I see things starting to pick up as intermediate goods (imports) start to pick up along with a rise in exports." ***With Inquirer wire reports***

Total ban . . .

From page B1

already has existing rules banning the importation of right-hand drive vehicles and stringent requirements on used vehicle shipments that should be implemented strictly to level the playing field. Kameyama said the government must have the political will to resolve the issue.

While the DTI had declared that used vehicle imports as illegal, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (which facilitates the entry of pre-owned, right-hand drive vehicles in the country) insisted that these shipments were above board.

The SBMA had argued that the Department of Justice, the Office of Government Corporate Counsel, and the Office of the President upheld the legality of the used vehicle imports. The DTI has yet to disclose what it plans to do with the used vehicle imports.

The Great Summer PC Price Plunge

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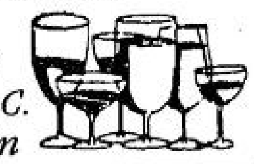
Deadbeat Don



COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

YOU know why billionaire "Don" Emilio Yap has been dodging payments on about P600 million owed by his Manila Hotel from the government workers' pension fund?

Because Yap claims the loan had been granted by the Government Service Insurance System to the hotel before his takeover.

Yap's lawyer, Aquino legal counsel/press secretary Adolf Azcuna, claims that when the hotel put on the bloc its 51-percent stake in April 1995, the hotel's total shareholders' equity stood at P331 million.

But when Yap took over the historic hotel two years later, the shareholders' equity had sunk to P136 million, because of the hotel's borrowings from its parent GSIS during that two-year interregnum.

What Azcuna has not been saying is that Yap had been the cause of the delay that prompted the Manila Hotel to borrow from its parent GSIS P189 million in 1995 for it to finance operations and purchase equipment.

Yap sued after losing the April 1995 privatization bidding to a Malaysian hotel group. The Supreme Court, ruling that the hotel was part of "national patrimony" and therefore reserved to Filipinos, consequently awarded the historic hotel to the Chinese immigrant.

To this day, the "philanthropic" Yap refuses to pay even a cent to service the ballooning interest and principal that the exasperated GSIS board, according to the grapevine, has unanimously voted to file the corresponding criminal complaint against the powerful businessman.

What has been holding the GSIS suit is the delay in the release of a legal opinion sought from the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, said GSIS president/general manager Winston Garcia.

The GSIS wrote OGCC chief Amado Valdez in November 2001, but as of yesterday, Valdez still has not rendered the P600-million (and counting) opinion.

Neither black nor white

A TOP corporate litigator shot twice and wounded his lawyer-son on the parking lot of the Blanco building in Salcedo Village on March 25, Holy Monday.

The father, despite being wheelchair-bound and strapped to an oxygen tank due to emphysema, fired a handgun hidden on his lap.

The son survived the stomach wounds after staying more than two weeks at the Makati Medical Center's ICU unit.

The son is now back, apparently still in one piece, staying in the father's disputed building; the father, on the other hand, is again confined at the Makati Med, ironically in the same ICU wing.

Both the family and the police have been hush-hush on the incident, treating the pre-noon shooting in front of horrified witnesses as a "domestic disturbance."

Urdaneta shooter

AND speaking of shooting, the house of Urdaneta Village resident Lourdes Eristingcol on 25 Urdaneta Ave. became a target on Jan. 5 from an unknown gun who pumped a single bullet at the house's attic window.

Not to be trifled with, Eristingcol asked the police to investigate.

Based on the trajectory of the bullet and its impact on the double-wall glass block, the police concluded that the gun was fired from the "second floor" of the neighboring house on Cerrada Street.

That house just happens to be owned by a former village official with whom Eristingcol has been feuding with.

The police said the neighbor happens to be a licensed holder of a .45 cal. handgun.

"Unfortunately, no ballistic comparison could be made with said firearm because of the lack of identifiable class characteristics and microscopic marks from the bullet fragments," the culprit slug having severely fragmented upon impact, said police Insp. Primitivo Gutierrez of the Southern Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Heard through the grapevine

FILINVEST Development president Josephine Gotianun Yap said Reco Grandhomes of Singapore has not yet decided to convert the P1.2 billion in bonds the Singaporean company acquired from issuer Filinvest Land.

While it is true that Reco Grandhomes is a shell company used by the Government of Singapore Investment Corp., "there is no prohibition under Singaporean law to register a company ... with a nominal capital of S$2," she said.

Reco Grandhomes "office" address is the same as that of its accountants-incorporators.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Singapore buys last cargo of Malampaya oil

SHELL will export its last cargo of Malampaya crude oil to Singapore in May, following the end of tests on the country's most productive oilfield since the 1970s, a company source said yesterday.

This will be the third shipment from the field and the first to be sold into Singapore, said the source with the Malampaya field operator, Shell Philippines Exploration Co., a unit of Royal/Dutch Shell Group.

"It will be brought into the Shell Bukom refinery. It will be the last batch of oil production from our extended well test," the source said. The refinery is located on an island south of Singapore.

The cargo of 600,000 barrels of low sulphur Malampaya crude with specific gravity API number of 30, would be shipped out in the next two weeks and arrive in Singapore in May, the source said. *Reuters*

PDIC files complaint against Unitrust execs

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE STATE-OWNED Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. has recently filed with the Department of Justice complaint-affidavits of estafa and falsification against former top officials of Unitrust Development Bank Inc., a thrift bank that closed early this year following a bitter squabble for control among Japanese and Filipino shareholders.

In a copy of the complaint filed with the DOJ last April 12, the PDIC charged that Francis Yuseco Jr., Pedro Montanez, Leopoldo Valcarcel Jr. together with Kensuke Inoue connived and conspired with each other to make it appear that the first three were the buyers each of 20-percent equity of UDBI though they knew fully well that they were just fronting for a Japanese firm, G. Cosmos, chaired by Japanese self-styled spiritual leader Genta Ogami.

"Yuseco, Valcarcel and Montanez represented themselves and acted as three of the five new owners of Unitrust. Yuseco and Valcarcel even got themselves elected as directors/officers of Unitrust. It turned out, however, that they were just fronting for another party," PDIC said.

PDIC based its arguments on documents and testimony of the four individuals and the group of former owners of Unitrust led by former Philippine Stock Exchange president Jose Luis Yulo Jr. presented in congressional hearings on the UDBI fiasco early this year.

PDIC pointed out that all the money for the alleged acquisition of the Filipinos' combined 60-percent stake in UDBI as well as two Japanese firms under Ogami came from G. Cosmos itself.

The three Filipinos themselves have admitted that they were lent the money to acquire Unitrust by Ogami's group, then represented by Inoue.

Meanwhile, in a separate complaint-affidavit filed with the DOJ on March 25 this year, PDIC accused Yuseco, former UDBI executive vice president Motohiko Hagisaka and former UDBI acting chair and acting president Jose Apolinario of estafa for getting P13 million from the thrift bank's coffers.

Records showed that the group of Ogami and Philtrack, represented by Yuseco, signed a memorandum of agreement for the payment to Yuseco of P13 million supposedly for the resignation of Yuseco and other selected UDBI officers and for Yuseco's commission as broker for the acquisition of UDBI by Ogami's group in September last year.

"Yuseco should know, being then the president and chair of the board of UDBI that the MOA he signed . . . providing for the payment to him of P13 million does not involve UDBI. It is not a party thereto. Neither did UDBI undertake to provide the funds for said payment," PDIC said.

However, notwithstanding and with obvious deceit and fraud of UDBI, Yuseco accepted the payment through UDBI manager's check no. 7937 for P13 million, despite knowing fully well that the funds were sourced from UDBI without the appropriate board approvals and the fact that he has no receivables from UDBI in the aforesaid amount of P13 million," PDIC added.

UDBI has 13 branches, including its head office.

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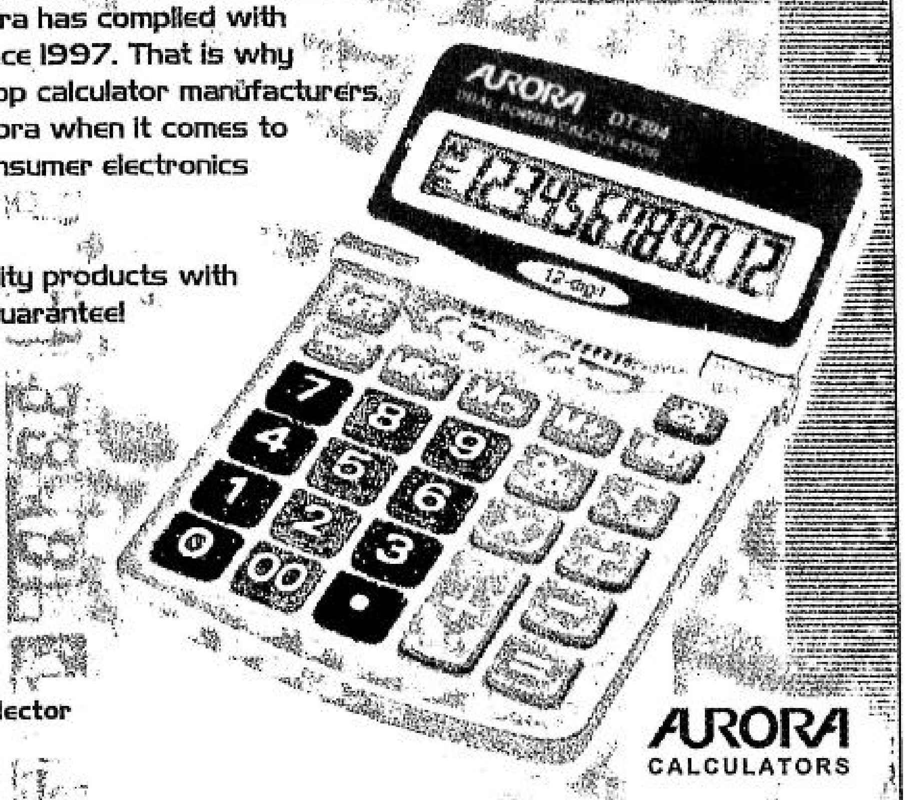

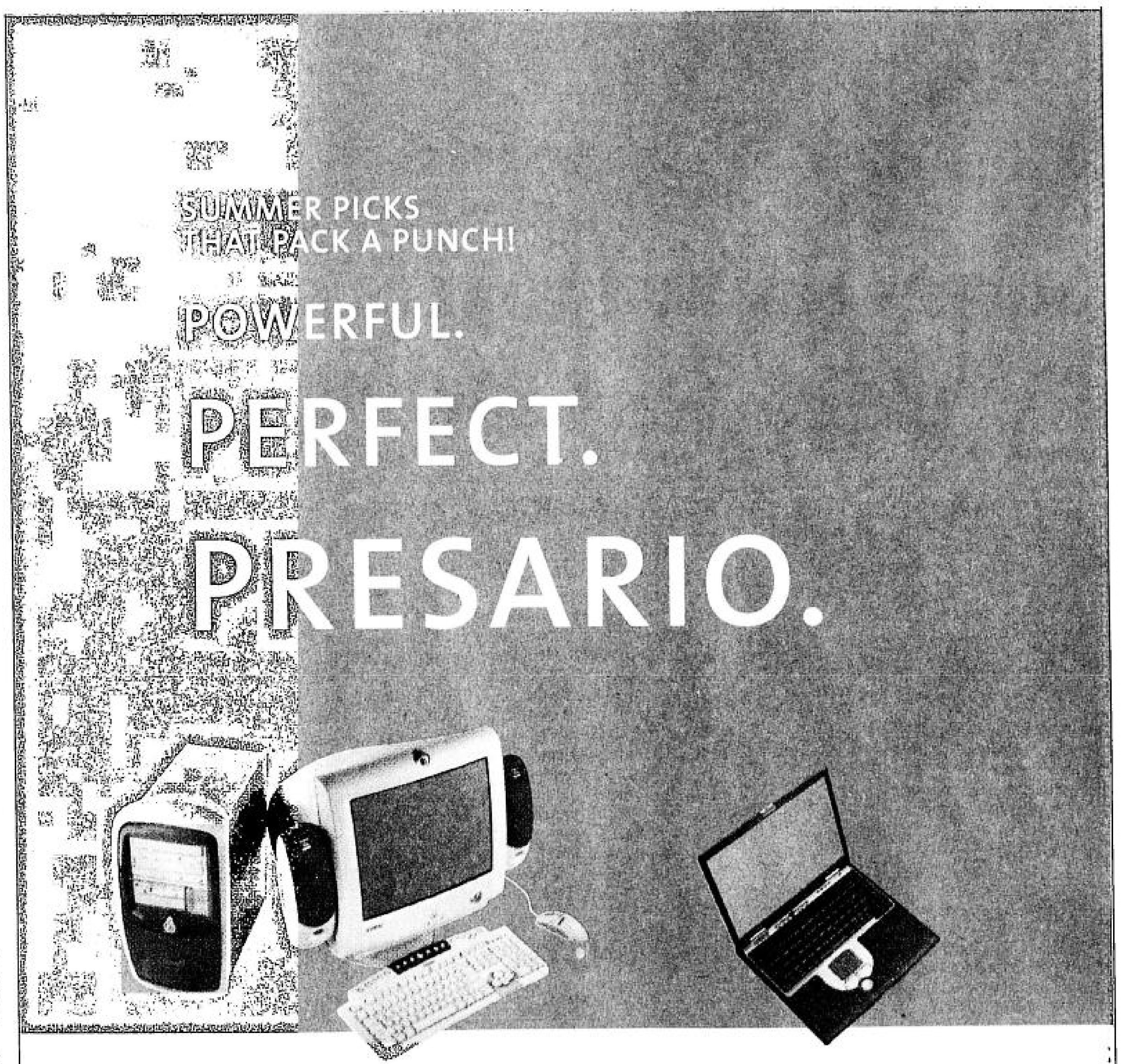

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Employers hate too many holidays

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

IF the Philippines really wants to compete globally by enhancing its level of productivity and product quality, the government's thrust of extending and juggling holidays is wrong. It seeks to please the tourism industry at the expense of all other industries. Thus, Malacañang's decision to revert to May 1 the celebration of Labor Day is a step back to the right track. President GMA has to abandon the whole thrust absolutely. The benefits are nil while the costs are tremendous.

Employers are penalized with the doubling of labor costs, not to mention the opposition put up by unions which don't want their members to work on declared holidays. Instead of spending quality time with their families, or patronizing Dick Gordon's tourism sites, workers find more time for pickets, demos and concerted marches. This government policy is one of these knee jerk initiatives that lacked proper analysis and coordination.

The law on holidays

Article 94 of the Labor Code requires employers to pay 100 percent of wages to employees who don't work and 200 percent to those who work on holidays. Originally, the term "holiday" refers to New Year, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, April 9, May 1, June 12, July 4, Nov. 30, Dec. 25, Dec. 30 and the general election day.

When President Aquino was empowered to legislate under the Freedom Constitution, she issued Executive Order No. 203 whereby almost all these holidays remained with the addition of the last Sunday of August as National Heroes Day. She deleted July 4 and elections day but added nationwide special days which are All Saints Day (Nov. 1) and the last day of the year.

Changing holidays

Only Congress, by law, can amend EO 203 and Article 94. President GMA cannot. President Cory was empowered because after Edsa I, we had no Congress and under the Freedom Charter, the President was both legislative and executive. Today, there are fully operating houses of Congress. The secretary of justice should have advised the President, who is not a lawyer, to refrain from tinkering with law.

Under EO 203, different treatments were given to regular holidays and special days. On holidays, workers are assured 100 percent of wages even if they don't work. On special days, they don't get paid under the principle of "no work, no pay." Those who work on holidays get 200 percent of their wages. Those who work on special days get only 130 percent.

Muslim holidays

President Marcos issued PD 1083 which recognizes five more holidays namely: Amun Jadid (Muslim New Year); Maulid-Un-Nari (Mohammad's Birthday); Lailatul Isra Wal Mi Raj (Mohammad's Ascension); Id-Ul-Fitr (End of Fasting) and Id-Ul-Adha (10th Day of 12th Month).

Under Proclamation 1198, all companies in Muslim areas listed under PD 1083 shall observe these holidays. And all Muslims in Christian locations are entitled to these holidays as well. Thus, Christians enjoy these holidays if they work in Muslim areas. Muslims working even in Metro Manila enjoy them too.

Supreme Court ruling

On 30 January 2002, the Supreme Court issued a ruling in San Miguel Corp. vs. Court of Appeals (GR 146775), affirming the Department of Labor's decision directing SMC to consider Muslim holidays as regular holidays and pay its Muslim and non-Muslim workers holiday pay.

The Supreme Court stressed that wages are granted on the basis of law and not on the workers' faith. The law was clarified by a DOLE handbook that specifies that both Muslims and Christians working within the Muslim areas might not report for work on the days designated by law as Muslim holidays.

Labor secretary's powers

The labor secretary is empowered with visitorial authority, including his duly authorized representatives consisting of the regional directors and labor inspectors. Under Article 128 of the Labor Code, they are empowered to search books and other documents, without search warrants and to determine violations of labor standards.

Without the need of holding hearings, he can issue compliance orders and writs of execution to enforce the provisions of law. These powers were affirmed by the Supreme Court in a string of labor jurisprudence.

Payment of holiday pay

In another Supreme Court case, decided on 28 March 2001, it was held in Producers Bank vs. NLRC (GR 100701) that the divisor used by management (whether 300 or 314) in computing cash conversion of daily rates applicable to monthly-paid employees is critical in determining whether the holiday pay was already paid and integrated in the monthly salary.

Citing Filipro vs. Vivar (205 SCRA 200, 1992) and Chartered Bank vs. Ople (138 SCRA 273, 1985), the divisor assumes an important role in determining whether the holiday pay is already included in the monthly-paid employee's salary. The divisor 314 is arrived at by subtracting all 50 Sundays from 365 days. The use of 314 leads to the inevitable conclusion that the 10 legal holidays are already included therein.

Back to bottom lines

If we want progress for our country, the government should review its policy on holidays. We should focus on work, production, pushing for higher productivity levels and better quality of goods and services.

Holidays may bring in very few tourists but they create a lot of problems to daily-paid workers who will lose their much-needed wages. They also deprive employers of productive man hours. Therefore, they are both anti-labor and anti-business.

This country cannot compete globally if we continue to reinforce Rizal's thesis on the indolence of the Filipinos. We should rethink our overall strategy and renew our work ethic and business paradigms. There is much time to rest on weekends. On workdays, let us all focus on work.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

Survey shows brokers split over extending PSE's trading hours

By Doris C. Dumlao

STOCKBROKERS are split over a proposal to change the Philippine Stock Exchange's trading schedule, according to a recent survey.

A survey conducted by the PSE's floor trading and arbitrage committee on April 12 to 17 showed that 59 out of the stock exchange's 116 brokers wanted to retain the current 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. schedule.

The rest said they wanted it changed, although they themselves were split over a proposal from foreign stockbrokerages to extend the session to 4 p.m. Twenty-five stockbrokerages voted in favor of this proposal, while 22 said they wanted the trading hours extended only up to 3 p.m. Ten others presented their own proposals.

The PSE has 184 member-brokers, but only 135 are considered as active.

In its survey, the committee gave stockbrokers three choices—to retain the existing 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., or shift to 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.—determine the best recourse to take regarding the matter.

There has been strong opposition among local brokers to a proposal to extend the stock market's trading hours from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. One group has suggested to instead move to a 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. schedule without a lunch break.

With the survey results out, the floor trading and arbitrage committee is now firming up its recommendations to the PSE board.

In an interview, PSE director Eddie Gobing, head of the floor trading and arbitrage committee, said PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco had pledged to respect the majority's decision on the issue.

Yuchengco was among the strongest advocates of the 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. trading slot.

A wide array of reasons was given by brokers who opposed extending the PSE's trading hours.

Some opposed the resulting shift in lifestyle, as it would give them less time to play golf. Others cited practical reasons.

Some said the thin market volume did not justify longer business hours while others argued that extending the trading session would prevent them from devoting time to other commitments.

Astro del Castillo, head of research at local stockbrokerage A&A Securities Corp. and a supporter of the 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. extension, said instead of asking every broker, the floor trading and arbitrage committee should have given more weight to the foreign brokerages' proposal.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Union Cement Corp.** were Ramon del Rosario, Urs Bieri, Magdaleno Albarracin Jr., Jeremy Maycock, Oscar Hilado, Kikuo Koshida, Ramon del Rosario Jr., Peter Assam, Jose Cuisia Jr., Antonio Samson, Paul Hunziker and Francisco Viray.

* * *

THE LISTING of **Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc.**'s 1.6 billion common shares was set for Tuesday, April 23.

* * *

ALL of the 14 directors of the Bank of Commerce (Bancommerce) were reelected to the board in the bank's annual stockholders' meeting held on April 16.

They are: Joselin G. Fragada, chair emeritus; Antonio O. Cojuangco, chair; Raul B. de Mesa, president/CEO; Enrique A. Sobrepeña Jr.; Francisco E. Rodrigo Jr.; Ramon O. Cojuangco; Miguel O. Cojuangco; Rafael E. Evangelista; J. Marsh Thomson; Raul Ch. Rabe; Charles L. Go; Edgardo del Fonso; Marizza F. Anonas; and Ernesto V. Espaldon Jr.

In the same meeting, De Mesa reported that the bank's deposit base expanded by 23 percent while its Foreign Currency Deposit Units (FCDU) deposits grew by 29 percent from year-ago levels.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.** were Antonio Go, Rene Buenaventura, Manolo Arzadon, Gerard Lee Co, Anthony Conway, Antonio Cotoco, Corazon De La Paz, Enriqueta Disuanco, Jonathan Go, Gamelin Oczon, Jose Pastor Puno, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Roberto Romulo, Juan Santos and Walter Wassmer.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Ayala Land Inc.** were Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Francisco Licuanan III, Ariston Estrada Jr., Mercedita Nolledo, Delfin Lazaro, Leandro Locsin Jr., Ramon del Rosario Jr. and Manuel Bengson.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **A.Soriano Corp.** were Andres Soriano III, Eduardo Soriano, Enrique Razon Jr., John Gokongwei Jr., Oscar Hilado, Raymundo Pe, Paul Lawrence, Antonio Roxas and Roberto Romulo.

* * *

IONICS Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 31, 10:30 a.m. at the Sta. Elena Golf Club, Laguna. Stockholders of record as of May 2 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

ICTSI plans to bid for 3 new overseas projects

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. is bidding for new projects in Poland, Canada and India this year as it attempts to revive its global expansion after the sale of foreign unit ICTSI International Holdings Inc.

During the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday, company chair Enrique Razon Jr. also said operations in the newly privatized port of Suape in Brazil would go full blast next month with the expected resolution of labor-related problems involving the project.

"The situation in Suape is very tough but we've concluded deals with the labor unions, except for one, and we expect to finish everything within the next 16 to 90 days," Razon told reporters and stock analysts.

When ICTSI's wholly owned subsidiary Tecon Suape SA took over the Suape terminal late last year, it sought the reduction in the rate of container moves in line with efforts to improve productivity. This was, however, met with stiff opposition by the labor unions.

Unlike port labor wages across the globe, Brazilian labor is being paid on a per-container-move basis at a current rate of $60 per container.

The 30-year Suape contract, which was bagged by ICTSI last year, was the only offshore business that remained with the company after it sold its foreign businesses held by IIHC to the Hutchison group of Hong Kong.

ICTSI was able to reduce its debts from P11 billion to P2.4 billion by using its share of the proceeds from the $400-million Hutchison deal for debt servicing, Razon said.

"The group now has the firepower to get back on track with our expansion program. ICTSI is back in harness and has set sail to new, more exciting shores in the coming months and years," Razon said.

Razon said the new offshore projects that would likely materialize this year were those in Poland, Canada and India, with an average project capacity size of 350,000 to 600,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). He said ICTSI was currently bidding for projects in these countries.

He said ICTSI was also keen on pursuing projects in Japan, Australia and Thailand, although not likely within the year. ***Doris Dumlao***

UCC posts 133% profit increase

PHINMA-CONTROLLED Union Cement Corp., the country's biggest cement manufacturer, yesterday reported a 133-percent increase in its first-quarter profits to P200 million from year-ago levels.

UCC senior vice president and treasurer Eduardo Sahagun told reporters during the company's stockholders' meeting on Wednesday that the growth in net income was driven by higher sales volume which allowed the company to realize P2 billion in revenues during the period.

Sahagun stressed that the increase in profits was not due to higher prices, adding that the price of its cement remained lower than the price levels in the previous quarters.

He said there was a surge in demand for cement in March, which signaled the start of the seasonal summer boom in construction activities.

The Tariff Commission recently decided to recommend the lifting of additional duties on imported cement to bring prices down, as consumers were complaining that prices had risen more than three times since December 1998.

"We don't know what will happen next and we're disappointed with the decision. We've shown a strong balance sheet and we believe we have put the necessary structures in place to compete," Sahagun said.

He said UCC has implemented reforms to further reach out to end-users through various marketing initiatives. It also has invested in e-businesses, which are expected to pay off this year.

Last year, for instance, the company launched Union Excel, a new product that will cater to homebuilders who put a premium on high-strength cement. It also launched the UCC e-cement sales website and a call center to facilitate online order booking.

On the expenditure side, the company reduced costs and expenses last year by 12.9 percent to P5.6 billion largely through reorganization at its plants. ***Doris Dumlao***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, April 18, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70.5	72.5	70	72.5	1,791,700
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	10
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	42.5	39.5	40	615,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41.5	42	41	41	182,500
Philippine National Bank	57.5	57.5	56	56	6,300
Phil. Savings Bank	28	29	28	29	5,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	8,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19.25	18.5	19.25	3,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	280,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	220	220	220	230
Manulife Financial Corp.	1420	1420	1410	1410	590
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	40,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1120	1120	1100	1100	490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.64	500,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	805	800	805	19,440
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	300,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.049	0.047	0.047	8,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Piltel	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	550,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	510	515	505	505	177,660
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	300,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	5,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	29.5	29.5	28.5	28.5	203,400
Manila Electric Co. B	47	48.5	47	47.5	1,244,600
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.68	1.68	2,684,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.66	1.66	515,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	14,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.05	3.05	2.85	2.85	6,047,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	8,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	52,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	23,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	7,930,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	21.75	22.5	21.75	22.5	906,300
RFM Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	639,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	45.5	46.5	224,000
San Miguel Corp. B	59	59	56	57.5	884,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	901,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	583,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	133,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	2,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.14	170,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.61	0.63	11,010,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	750,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	170,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	250,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31.5	31	31	249,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.12	170,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Ionics Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	13,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	14,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.86	1,280,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.62	0.62	190,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,350,000
Music Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	1,380,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.88	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	700,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	1,710,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	80,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.33	0.33	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	35.5	35.5	35	35	60,400
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	56,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	790	790	790	790	17,820
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	4,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	3,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	37,653,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	410,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.8	18,387,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	6,071,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	100,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.045	18,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	380,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	12,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	800,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	210,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,989,720	162,630,275.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	196,016,620	426,786,080.00
PRO	69,356,000	402,659,500.00
Mining	33,080,000	1,113,250.00
OIL	14,010,000	120,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	315,452,340	993,309,105.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	585.51	UP 3.73
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,875.03	DOWN 12.25
PRO	638.90	UP 0.29
Mining	1,350.06	UP 23.82
OIL	1.62	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	767.48	DOWN 3.54
Composite	1,401.78	DOWN 2.63

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 38; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 50; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 107; NO. OF TRADES: 2,574

CURRENCIES

April 18, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.123722	1.000000	51.0020
Japan	Yen	0.008594	0.007648	0.3901
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623553	1.444800	73.6877
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144078	0.128215	6.5392
Switzerland	Franc	0.680343	0.605437	30.8785
Canada	Dollar	0.713611	0.635042	32.3884
Singapore	Dollar	0.614727	0.547046	27.9004
Australia	Dollar	0.603179	0.536769	27.3763
Bahrain	Dinar	2.980853	2.652661	135.2910
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299667	0.266674	13.6009
Brunei	Dollar	0.611383	0.544070	27.7487
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000106	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025940	0.023084	1.1773
UAE	Dirham	0.305983	0.272294	13.8875
Korea	Won	0.000859	0.000764	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.889900	45.3867
Brazil	Real	0.485619	0.432152	22.0406
Denmark	Kroner	0.134441	0.119639	6.1018
India	Rupee	0.022999	0.020467	1.0439
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.295716	0.263158	13.4216
Mexico	New Peso	0.121826	0.108413	5.5293
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498811	0.443892	22.6394
Norway	Kroner	0.130754	0.116358	5.9345
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018759	0.016694	0.8514
South Africa	Rand	0.100875	0.089769	4.5784
Sweden	Kroner	0.109408	0.097362	4.9657
Syria	Pound	0.025539	0.022727	1.1591
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032235	0.028686	1.4630
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001277	0.001136	0.0579

Strength of rebound unclear, says Greenspan

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan gave a clear signal on Wednesday that no US interest rate rises were imminent, saying the strength of the recovery was unclear and that oil prices bore close watching.

"Prospects for low inflation and inflation expectations in the period ahead mean the Federal Reserve should have ample opportunity to adjust policy to keep inflation pressures contained once sustained, solid economic expansion is in view," Greenspan said.

The US central bank chief told the congressional Joint Economic Committee in a relatively brief 90-minute Capitol Hill appearance that energy prices had not yet risen to a point that would seriously sap spending but warned that a lasting surge in the cost of oil could have "far-reaching" consequences.

His words added weight to the view that policymakers would be in no rush to begin raising rates from four-decade lows.

A Reuters poll taken soon after the testimony showed a majority of primary dealers, firms that dealt directly with the Fed, saw the first rate increase in August. Policymakers would next meet on May 7 amid a conviction they would not change rates.

Last year, the Fed slashed the key fed funds rate for overnight bank loans, which influenced borrowing costs throughout the economy, 11 times to 1.75 percent to foster a recovery from a business-spending-led slump and the effects of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Greenspan said such an accommodative monetary policy was not consistent in the long term with steady prices. However, he emphasized that the Fed needed time to monitor consumer spending behavior, which would have a significant impact on the strength of the recovery.

In response to questions, he said a solid expansion was "not sufficiently in view to be comfortable" at this point that it can be sustained.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down by about 56 points in the early afternoon, at about 10,245.

Analysts said Greenspan's tone indicated the Fed felt no urgency to reverse the aggressive rate-cutting campaign it conducted throughout 2001.

"The Fed will probably be raising rates, but they can wait until they are convinced that things are doing better," said economist Gary Thayer of AG Edwards and Sons Inc. in St. Louis. "If it looks like higher oil prices will stay and weigh on consumer confidence, the Fed may hold off raising rates for a while," he added.

While listing a number of caveats about the broad economy, Greenspan highlighted robust gains in productivity—or output per hour—that, he said, meant wages could rise without pressuring prices. He added that he did not fear a bubble in the housing market and said low mortgage rates were supporting a strong housing market. *Reuters*

FEDERAL Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan looks up while addressing the joint economic committee on Capitol Hill. Greenspan offered a clear signal that no US interest rate rises were imminent, saying the strength of the recovery was unclear and that oil prices bore close watching. REUTERS

US earnings show promise, but no sector shines

NEW YORK, April 17—US companies are slowly emerging from their recession-wary lockdowns this earnings season, but no sector has healed enough to take the pole position and lead the market higher, economists said.

Roughly 125 of the companies in the broad-based Standard & Poor's 500 index had posted their quarterly results by late Wednesday. At least 200 will have reported by the time the spring earnings season's hectic first week wraps up.

Their results have topped expectations on average by about 2 percent, according to First Call/ Thomson Financial estimates. Overall earnings are currently down 2 percent from a year ago.

"Generally, the earnings are coming through as expected," said Stanley Nabi, managing director at Credit Suisse Asset Management, which managed $269 billion globally. "Year-to-year, I think earnings will be down in the first quarter, but down modestly in the single digits."

Analysts expected results of the companies that made up the S&P 500 to drop 6 to 8 percent, while First Call expected the index's earnings to be down 11.2 percent.

After reeling under the weight of losses in nearly all industries over the past few quarters, the market is seeking confirmation that corporate scars are on the mend.

Investors rallied around the semiconductor sector this week after Intel Corp. reported strong results and other industry players issued brighter outlooks. The Philadelphia Stock Exchange semiconductor index is up more than 8 percent for the week.

But analysts said earnings so far showed the market still lacked a group of companies that could help spur on a recovery.

"The leadership in the market is not consistent," Nabi said. "You have leadership for a week and then it loses its thrust, and another group comes into a leadership position."

Thirteen of the 30 corporate giants that make up the Dow Jones industrial average had reported results for the latest quarter by late Wednesday, including IBM Corp., which posted its third-straight profit decline after the close of trade.

The industrial sector is often the first to pick up in an economic recovery. But US automotive giants handed Wall Street a mixed bag this week, despite strong demand for cars and light trucks. General Motors Corp., the world's biggest automaker, said its first-quarter profit before charges nearly tripled as buyers lined up for its profitable trucks. *Reuters*

IBM earnings drop 12% on weak spending in Q1

NEW YORK—International Business Machines Corp. on Wednesday posted its sharpest drop in earnings since the world's top computer maker emerged in 1993 from a string of losses, saying companies spent less on technology.

But Armonk, New York-based IBM, sounded a positive note for later this year, saying that it expected to meet analysts' 2002 estimates as services revenues improved to double-digit growth, which helped boost its shares in after-hours trading.

IBM said total revenue declined 12 percent to $18.6 billion from $21 billion while the services division saw its revenue fall 3 percent to $8.2 billion.

Looking forward, the company said it saw 2002 revenue in line with current analyst estimates for earnings of $4.16 per share on revenue of $83 billion. That would be a 4.3-percent decline in earnings and a 3.3-percent decline in revenue from 2001. *Reuters*

Apple Computer steadies as it rolls out new iMacs

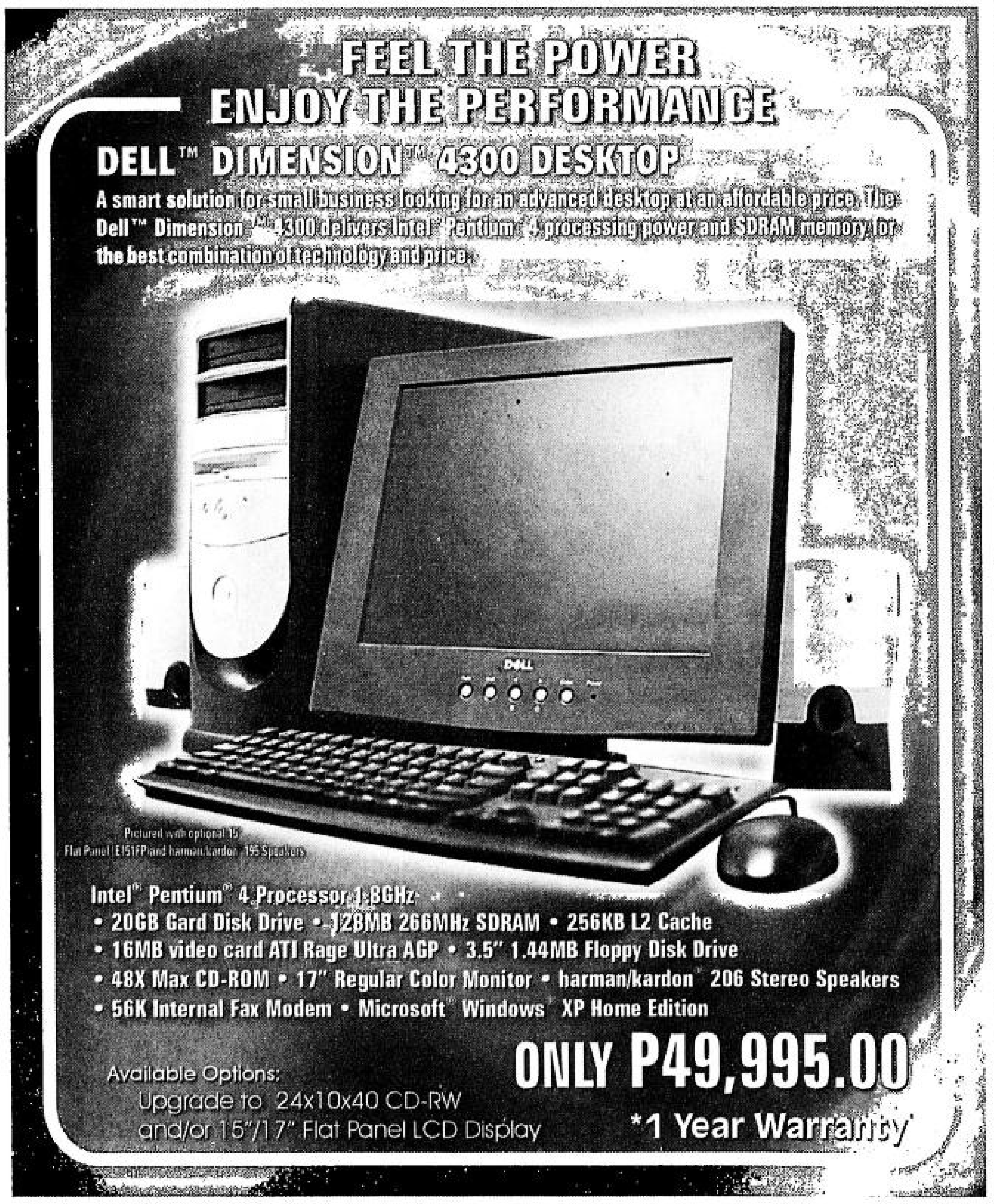
SAN FRANCISCO—Apple Computer Inc. on Wednesday reported a steady fiscal second-quarter profit from the previous quarter, in line with its forecast, despite rising component prices for its redesigned iMac desktop computer, which Apple rushed to fans.

Apple forecast that revenues for the current quarter would rise to $1.6 billion, up almost 7 percent from the March-ended period, with earnings per share flat to up slightly, and it said it could make that target without an economic recovery.

Cupertino, California-based Apple reported a net profit of $40 million, or 11 cents per share, for the quarter ended March 30, compared with $43 million, or 12 cents per share a year earlier.

Apple had forecast demand for the new iMac, the latest in a series of computers that have won design raves, would boost sales in the second quarter from $1.38 billion in the first, with profits steady on the first quarter's $38 million, or 11 cents per share.

The average analyst forecast had been for a 10-cents-per-share profit, Thomson Financial/First Call research said. *Reuters*



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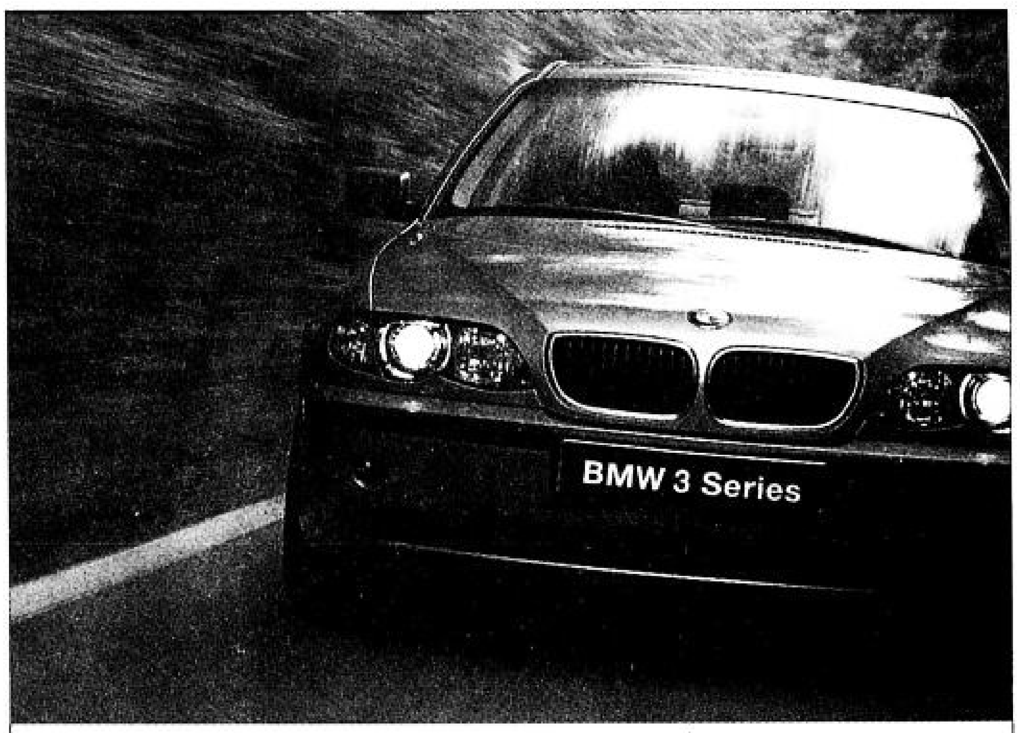

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318i Exec	2,200,000	770,000	**34,500**
318i M Sport	2,300,000	805,000	**36,000**
325i Exec	2,735,000	957,250	**42,500**

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Fax 727-63-37

Prestige Cars, Inc.
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Prestige Cars Makati, Inc.
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Fax 816-73-26

IMF chief says global recovery hangs on durable US economy

WASHINGTON—The global economy is set to grow 2.8 percent this year, but the durability of the critical US locomotive is uncertain, IMF chief Horst Koehler said Wednesday.

"A recovery is underway now in the United States and this is already beginning to have a positive impact on the economies in other regions," he told a luncheon at the National Press Club.

Koehler said he had lost a bet with US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, who deemed the International Monetary Fund forecast late last year for US growth of 0.7 percent in 2002 too low.

Updated IMF forecasts was seen tipping world economic growth of 2.8 percent in 2002, Koehler said.

The previous IMF outlook called for 2.4-percent world growth.

"The message is there is a recovery, there is even some consideration that the numbers could go up further," he said, advising people to adopt guarded optimism.

He gave no other forecasts.

"The question mark is mainly how strong and durable the recovery in the United States will be," Koehler said.

"This relates, in particular, to uncertainties about company earnings with their implication for business investment, the volatility of the oil price and political uncertainties in the world, in particular related to the situation in the Middle East."

Koehler's caution mirrored an earlier warning by Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan, who told US lawmakers that interest rates would remain at a 40-years low until the strength of US expansion was clear.

"Such a situation does not call for frantic action," the IMF chief said.

"What is needed is vigilance and a firm policy hand to make the recovery robust and more dynamic."

The United States must prevent the reemergence of the twin fiscal and external deficits of the 1980s, Koehler added.

Europe, meanwhile, could do more to create a single market and pursue structural reform.

"What I still miss (in Europe) is a stronger ambition to move to a higher potential growth path with stronger domestic demand dynamics," the IMF chief added.

In Japan, the world's second largest economy, the recession appeared to be bottoming out, though decisive action was needed to attack bad loans at banks, he said.

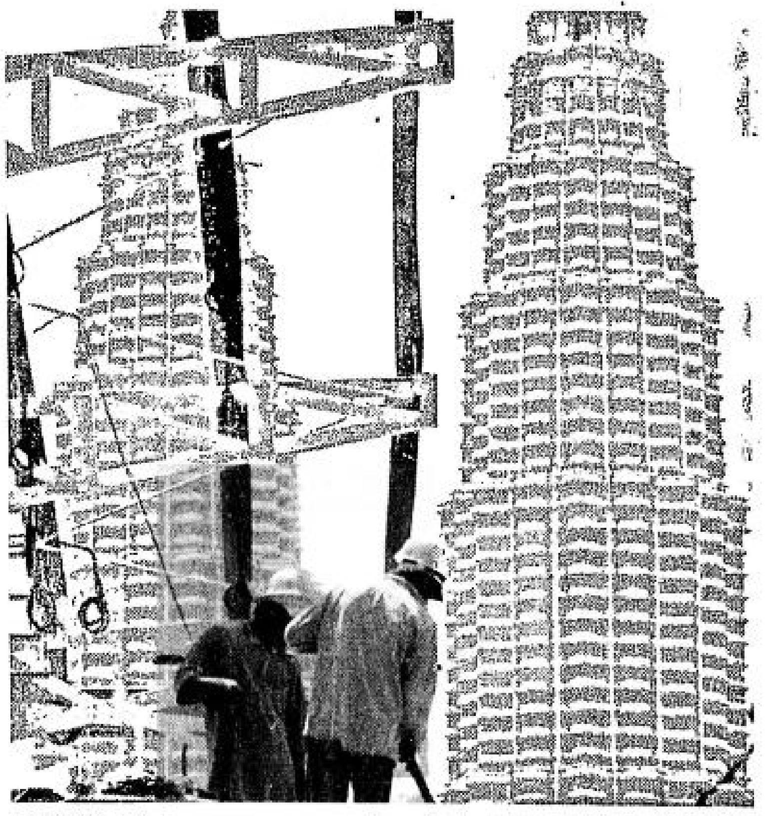
"Japan's ongoing recession is still a drag on global growth, in particular on activity in the Asian region," Koehler said.

"The return to a growth performance that corresponds to Japan's size and potential demands decisive action for the disposal of nonperforming loans, industrial deregulation and restructuring of its banking and corporate sector."

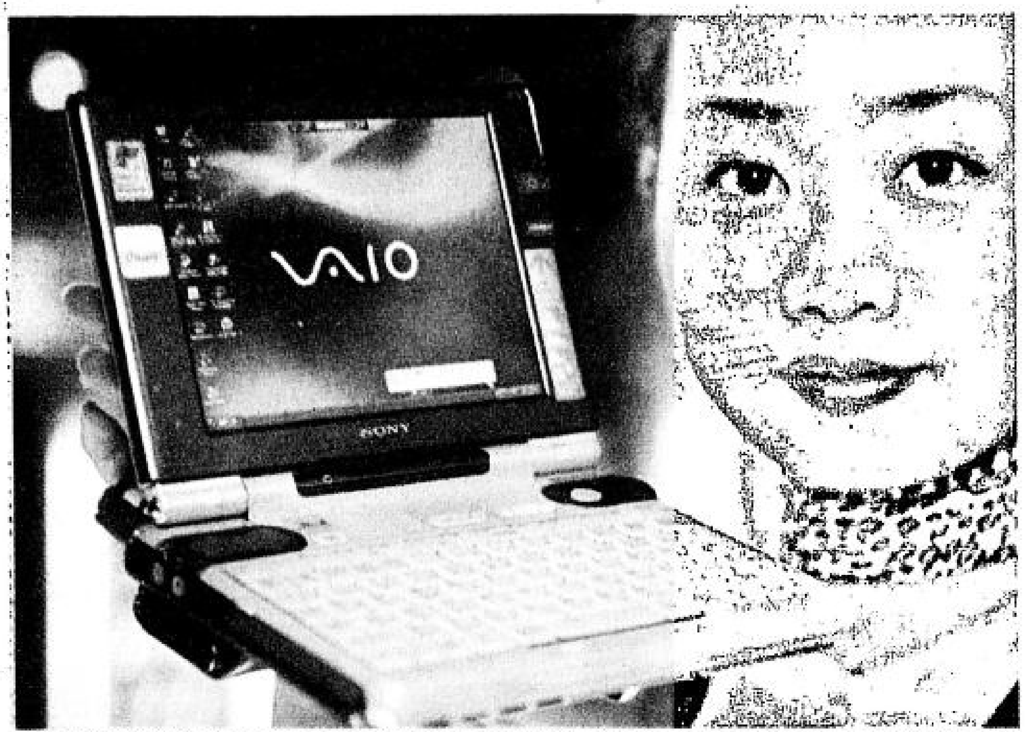
For poorer countries, the worldwide slowdown in 2001 confirmed that good policies pay off, he said.

But they could do better through trade if rich nations eliminated subsidies for agriculture, cotton, sugar and citrus fruit, which squeezed poor countries out of the market.

"I am deeply convinced if there is leadership, and we need leadership to tackle these subsidies, we will create a better world," he said. *AFP*



WORKERS labor on a construction site in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia's economy will latch onto recovering world trade and US demand to grow 4.5 percent this year and 5.7 percent next after a dismal 2001, the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research said on Thursday. REUTERS



AN EMPLOYEE of Japanese electronics giant Sony Corp. displays the company's tiny notebook computer, the "VAIO PCG-U1." Weighing only 820 grams and equipped with an 867-megahertz Transmeta Crusoe processor, the new computer will be on the market on April 27 with an estimated price of $1,150. AFP

Fake DVDs rule in piracy-indifferent China

BEIJING—Didn't you know? George C. Scott and Karl Malden were great in "American Pie 2." The grizzled duo also shone in "Tomb Raider," "Life is Beautiful," "The Truman Show," and the Civil War drama, "Glory."

And just glimpsing the two lovely ladies on the DVD cover is enough to attract viewers to the erotic story of "Henry and June"—starring, rather alarmingly, Karl Malden and George C. Scott.

Such are the weird juxtapositions of the entertainment world in China—thanks to a booming business in the illegal copying and sale of American films.

Why bother with factually or even grammatically correct packaging in a market where English is—at best—a second language? Just simply lift credits off one movie and slap them on covers of another, and another, and another.

From yesterday's "The Wizard of Oz" and "Vertigo" to today's "Harry Potter" and "crazy/beautiful," illegal copies of Hollywood movies are everywhere in urban China.

Some are harvested by the old technique of spiriting a video into a movie theater. Most others are perfect copies encoded onto DVD—some even with actor interviews, restored outtakes and other extras.

The government insists it's taking action. It often holds high-profile destruction-fests of illegal DVDs and CDs, like one last summer where 15 woodchippers shredded 16 million fakes into plastic slivers.

But in reality, fakes rule.

In Beijing, they're hawked by guys in suspiciously padded parkas.

In full view of Beijing's finest, they thrust fistfuls of this week's theatrical releases in your face: "Sir! DVDs? VCDs? Moooooovies?" In bars and restaurants, smiling men with black garbage bags full of DVDs let you peruse their stock while you await your appetizers.

It's impossible to tell where the movies come from, though authorities have identified coastal southern China as a particularly fertile manufacturing ground. But from the packaging, it's clear the copiers are either a) not accustomed to English, or b) duplicating originals with character-recognition software that should be returned for a refund.

Consider "Boogie Nights," or "Swordfish," starring "Ahale Beiry." Then there's the new "Planet of the Apes," described as a "hilarious encore to the runaway smash hit 'Sister Act'" and starring George C. Scott and Karl Malden.

Among other selections on a recent evening:

"Heat," described as "ALOS ANGLES CRIME SAG" and starring, on the front, "Al Pacione" and "Robeat De Niro." On the back, the credits insist it stars . . . George C. Scott and Karl Malden.

Kevin Smith's "Jay and Silwnt Bob Strike Back," with this description: "But proudly how long they cannot be, and original this film does not have a share." *AP*

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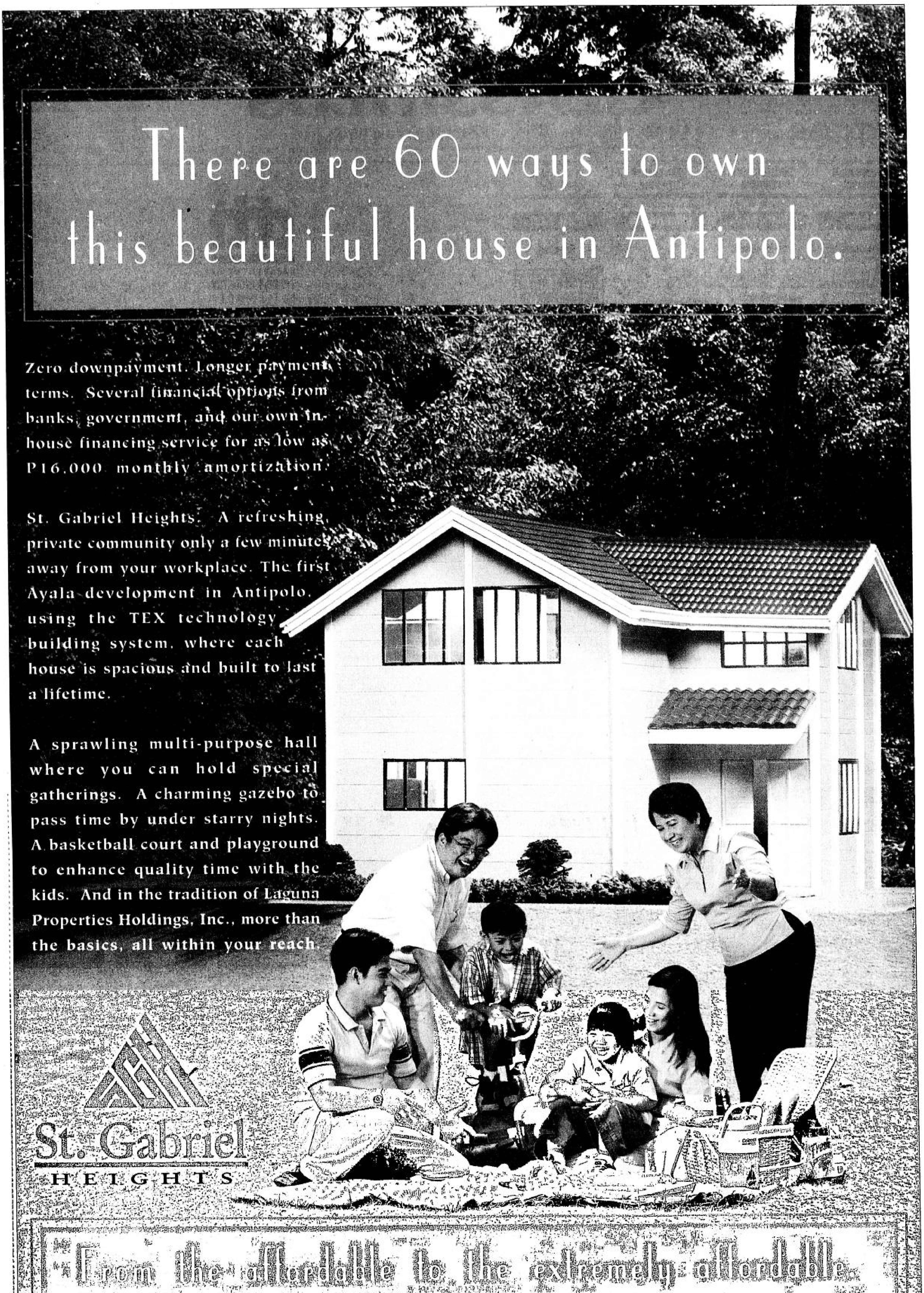

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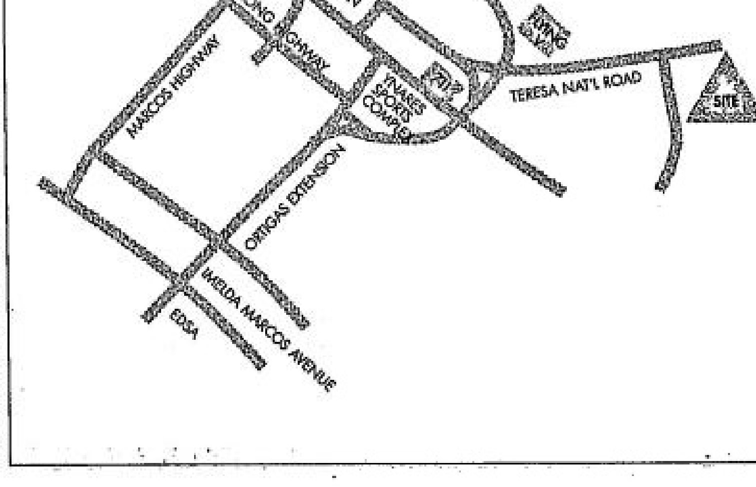

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★OFC STAFF 9134470 ALLAN★

★OFC STAFF 9134470ANTON★

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CLARO ANASTACIO has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs, per Doc. No. 368, Page No. 19, Book No. 74, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Ma. Nimia M. Dela Vega
PDI -- April 12, 19 & 26, 2002

Notice is hereby given of extra-judicial settlement of estate by & among the heirs of the late CESAR M. MADARANG who died w/out a will last Dec 25, 2000 covering TCT No. T-107695 under Doc No. 430, Page No. 87, Book No. XXXIV, Series of 2001 by Notary Public Atty. Emiliano P. Espiritu.
(PDI-April 5, 12, & 19 2002)

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement among the heirs of the late FIDELITO CAPISTRANO per Doc. No. 12 Book No. 5 Page No. 3, Series of 2002 Before Not. Public ATTY. ISRAEL E. PEREN Manila (PDI-April 12, 19, 26, 2002))

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

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m/f, w/exp in wholesaling of food prods., Coll. grad., computer literate. Attractive salary + comm.

OFC MGR/CONTROLLER
Acctg grad, w/ 3 yrs exp., computer literate. Auditing exp. a plus.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

EBC Corp. Certificate #60662-90,000 shr under the name of SIMEON TAN was declared lost. If no contest is received w/in 1 year new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-April 5,12 & 19, 2002)

This is to inform the public that Visa #153670 / 328653, ACR# M-0098558 issued to James M. Douglas was lost in Maasin, Southern Leyte (PDI-Apr. 19 & 26, 2002)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful inter-cessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

Makati Avenue, Makati City

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Bidding Committee shall conduct a Public bidding for the sale of the following acquired residential properties on May 06, 2002 at Rm. 602, 6th Flr., Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

PROP NO.	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO.	AREA LOT / FLR.	MINIMUM BID
	HOUSE AND LOT			
1	Blk 21 Lot 17 Carissa Homes North 1A Bo. Sto. Cristo SJDM, Bulacan	T-27225 (M)	35.00 / 20.62	177,002.21
2	Blk 03 Lot 25 Carissa Homes North 4c Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	T-363765 (M)	55.00 / 20.00	238,273.42
3	Blk 01 Lot 04 Carissa Homes North 5C Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	T-35267 P(M)	55.00 / 20.00	243,089.81
4	Blk 23 Lot 40 Carissa Homes North 6 Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	T-385805 (M)	45.00 / 20.00	194,043.56
5	Blk 01 Lot 08 PH3A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980409	35.00 / 20.62	180,105.73
6	Blk 02 Lot 08 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980397	35.00 / 20.62	190,450.00
7	Blk 06 Lot 22 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-944537	22.00 / 20.62	263,274.50
8	Blk 08 Lot 17 Ph3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980412	35.00 / 20.62	174,259.87
9	Blk 08 Lot 20 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980404	53.50 / 20.62	234,006.43
10	Blk 08 Lot 26 Ph2 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980395	35.00 / 20.62	174,959.87
11	Blk 08 Lot 28 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980393	35.00 / 20.62	174,259.87
12	Blk 11 Lot 34 PH3A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-953376	35.00 / 20.62	177,452.29
13	Blk 135 Lot 39 PH7 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-953823	33.00 / 18.03	194,175.58
14	Blk 15 Lot 05 PH2 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980410	35.00 / 20.62	191,150.00
15	Blk 15 Lot 20 PH5 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980400	61.00 / 20.62	247,223.78
16	Blk 16 Lot 02 PH3A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980403	55.50 / 20.62	243,328.98
17	Blk 23 Lot 06 PH1A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980398	35.00 / 20.62	185,032.24
18	Blk 26 Lot 26 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980401	54.00 / 20.62	231,083.78
19	Blk 29 Lot 02 PH3B Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980399	79.00 / 20.62	293,083.78
20	Blk 30 Lot 04 PH2 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980408	35.00 / 20.62	177,167.62
21	Blk 34 Lot 10 PH3B Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980308	54.00 / 20.62	234,987.74
22	Blk 34 Lot 16 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980402	58.50 / 20.62	242,243.78
23	Blk 34 Lot 27 PH4 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980411	35.00 / 20.62	173,559.87
24	Blk 44 Lot 08 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-953377	42.00 / 20.62	207,499.05
25	Blk 46 Lot 04 PH1A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980794	35.00 / 20.62	175,309.87
26	Blk 47 Lot 06 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980407	35.00 / 20.62	174,259.87
27	Blk 60 Lot 03 PH1A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-953378	35.00 / 20.62	177,465.79
28	Blk 62 Lot 06 PH7 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980406	33.00 / 18.03	185,955.06
29	Blk 70 Lot 21 PH7 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980405	33.50 / 18.03	198,238.24
30	Blk 01B Lot 19 La Poblacion 3A Partida, Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan	T-347629	50.00 / 29.00	246,751.71
31	Blk 10 Lot 04 La Poblacion 3B Bo. Partida, Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan	T-363763 (M)	64.00 / 29.00	271,311.05
32	Blk 08 Lot 01 La Poblacion 1C Bo. Partida, Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan	T-385804 (M)	36.00 / 25.00	193,729.30
33	Blk 72 Lot 17 CH La Trinidad 3 Bo. Quintana, Trece Martires City	T-62954	70.00 / 25.00	369,175.00
34	Blk 06 Lot 37 Northridge Bo. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	T-363764 (M)	44.00 / 36.00	270,444.06
35	Blk 07 Lot 18 Northwinds City 3B Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	T-385806 (M)	78.00 / 25.00	337,703.33
36	Blk 07 Lot 12 Parklane Country Homes Ph I Bo. Santiago, Gen. Trias, Cavite	T-706116	36.00 / 22.00	232,580.00
37	Blk 04 Lot 15 San Marino Heights(SMN2) Bo. Salawag, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-684348	98.00 / 25.00	404,492.40
38	Blk 14 Lot 85 San Marino South 2 Bo. Salawag, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953380	50.00 / 25.00	303,250.00
39	Blk 02 Lot 33 Solar Townhomes Dasmarinas Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953822	42.00 / 35.97	294,670.20
40	Blk 02 Lot 34 Solar Townhomes Dasmarinas Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953819	65.00 / 35.97	364,245.20
41	Blk 02 Lot 57 Solar Townhomes Dasmarinas Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953820	42.00 / 35.97	294,670.20
42	Blk 03 Lot 15 Solar Townhomes Bo. Poblacion, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953821	65.00 / 35.97	397,485.00
43	Blk 01 Lot 16 Solar Urban Townhomes North Bo. Bagumbong, Caloocan City	C-353380	66.00 / 36.00	362,064.00
44	Blk 32 Lot 18 Southern Heights1 Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna	T-478289	36.00 / 21.96	189,760.43
45	Blk 34 Lot 09 Southern Heights 1 Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna	T-478288	36.50 / 21.96	195,980.41
46	Blk 48 Lot 12 Southern Heights 1 Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna	T-478254	36.00 / 21.96	189,316.28
47	Blk 19 Lot 05 Willow Bend Bo. Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	T-363767 (M)	37.00 / 18.00	194,306.40
48	Blk 53 Lot 08 Willow Bend Bo. Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	T-363766 (M)	37.00 / 18.03	193,676.35
	LOT ONLY			
49	Lot 8-C-14-A-4-J Medalva Hills Subd., Ph 111, Bo. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	628586	205.00	357,725.00
50	Blk 01 Lot 04 Medalva Hills Subd. Bo. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	628842	150.00	261,750.00
51	Blk 01 Lot 06 Medalva Hills Subd. PH 111 Angono, Rizal	627984	150.00	261,750.00
52	Blk 01 Lot 07 Medalva Hills Subd., Angono, Rizal	627916	135.00	235,575.00
53	Blk 01 Lot 08 Medalva Hills Subd., PH 111 San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648435	135.00	235,575.00
54	Blk 01 Lot 21 PH 11 Medalva Hills Subd., San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648431	150.00	261,750.00
55	Blk 02 Lot 12 PH 111-A Medalva Hills Subd. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648437	110.00	191,950.00
56	Blk 05 Lot 04 Medalva Hills Subd. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	627983	150.00	261,750.00
57	Blk 07 Lot 05 Medalva Hills Subd., PH 111 San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	628840	160.00	279,200.00
58	Blk 07 Lot 29A PHI, Medalva Hills Subd. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648434	90.00	157,050.00
59	Blk 07 Lot 30B PH I, Medalva Hills Subd., San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648432	90.00	157,050.00
60	Blk 09 Lot 23 Medalva Hills Subd., PH II San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	628387	140.00	244,300.00
61	Blk 12 Lot 30 Medalva Hills Subd., PH II San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	628388	150.00	261,750.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Interested Parties are required to secure copies of . (a) INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS and (b) BID FORMS from the office of the Manager, Acquired Asset Management, Rm 602, 6th Flr., Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City.
2. Sealed proposals in triplicate shall be received at the Office of the Manager, Acquired Asset Management, Rm 602, 6th Flr., Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting 8:00 A.M NOT LATER THAN 2:00 P.M on May 06, 2002 immediately afterwhich, the said proposals shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders
3. Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT IN CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER's / MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila, payable to the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) in an amount equivalent to at least TEN PERCENT (10%) of the total bid price.
4. Properties shall be sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from the HDMF.
5. All bidders are advised to visit/inspect the properties for bidding before posting their bid proposals.
6. If the bidder who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he/she bidded during and after the bidding, his/her deposit shall be FORFEITED and failure of bidding shall be declared
7. ALL AWARDS BY THE BIDDING COMMITTEE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES / PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER / VP FUND MANAGEMENT GROUP.

HDMF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY THEREIN OR ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTEGEOUS TO THE FUND. THE DECISION OF THE FUND IS FINAL AND BINDING.

ACQUIRED ASSET MGNT. (Tel.# 810-21-26; 811-44-01 local 317; 848-82-05)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF QUEZON II
MUNICIPALITY of CATANAUAN
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: April 19, 2002
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109 PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under Contract No. RIRC 02 425 02 TUH Q-II located in Tuhian ARC, Catanauan, Quezon Province. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Catanauan, Quezon II and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the said sub-project:

Description of the Project: Construction of 6.0 km Bacong-Centro Road
Project Duration: 150 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: P3,000.00 (non-refundable)
Minimum Bid Security: P175,000.00
Bid Closing Date: May 21, 2002, 10:00 AM

Item No.	Scope of Work	Quantity	Unit
100	Clearing and Grubbing	36,000.00	sq.m.
102	Surplus Common Excavation	17,223.00	cu.m.
103	Structure Excavation	542.12	cu.m.
104	Embankment	5,593.00	cu.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	3,600.00	cu.m.
500-A	0.60m dia RCPC	96.00	ln.m.
500-B	0.90m dia. RCPC	40.00	ln.m.
500-C	1.2m dia. RCPC	8.00	ln.m.
504	Grouted Riprap	39.00	cu.m.
SPL-1	Stoned-Lined Canal	255.50	cu.m.

Minimum Equipment's Required
Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned/leased; Vibratory (9 ton min) Road Roller (1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-Owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned/leased; Dump Trucks (2 units)-owned; Water Truck (1 unit)-owned; Survey Instrument-Leased/Owned

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting **April 24, 2002**, 8:00AM to 5:00 PM upon payment of the above non-refundable fee pet contract/sub-project. A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **May 8, 2002** at 10:00 A.M. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security only the following/acceptable form; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Catanauan, Quezon II on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **HON. SEBASTIAN C. SERRANO**
City Mayor/Chairman BAC-ARCDP

(PDI--April 19, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Building No. 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue
Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos.: 743-8301 locals 1125, 1132; Direct 711-9502, 711-9503
Fax No. (632) 743-1829, 743-1786
E-mail Address: osec@doh.gov.ph

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these loans to payment under the contract for which this Invitation for Bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now requests price quotations for the supply and delivery of 73,208,000 tablets of Ferrous Sulfate with Folic Acid. International Shopping procedures will be conducted in accordance with ADB's procurement guidelines.
3. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidders at the PROCUREMENT AND LOGISTICS SERVICE, DOH, Building No. 25, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) or ONE HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLARS (US$150.00), including mail fee for foreign suppliers. The method of payment may be in cash or bank draft.
4. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Department of Health's Multi Media Conference Room, Sta. Cruz, Manila at 9:00 a.m. on **30 April 2002.**
5. Quotations must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. on **31 May 2002**

   Multi Media Conference Room
   Department of Health
   Building No. 18 San Lazaro Compound
   Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines
   Phone No.: (632) 338-6259
   Telefax No.: (632) 743-7236
6. Quotations must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two (2) percent of the total Bid Price in the currency of the quotation or another freely convertible currency. Late quotations shall be rejected. Quotations will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address, at 10:00 a.m. on **31 May 2002.**
7. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by you in connection with the preparation or delivery of your quotations.
8. In the comparison of quotations, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
9. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, and to annul the bidding process and reject all quotations at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such quotation as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Apr. 18 & 19, 2002)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

FIRST (1ST) INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF ROLL-UP/SUN SCREENS

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive supply, delivery and installation experience in roll-up/sun screens (around 8,000 sq.m.) for office buildings are invited to apply for pre-qualification for the bidding of the Bank's roll-up/sun screen requirements for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule:

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-Qualification Conference	Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification after		Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
April 22-23, 2002 @ 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	April 23, 2002 @ 3:00 p.m.	a. Evaluation of Pre-qualifications Documents & Brochures	May 06, 2002	May 16, 2002	May 17, 2002 @ 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.	May 21, 2002 @ 10:00 a.m.	May 24, 2002 @ 10:00 a.m.
		b. Evaluation of mock-ups versus Brochures	May 15, 2002				

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 24th flr., Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given one (1) day to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification forms shall be submited to and received at the above-stated office not later than **April 26, 2002, 3:00PM**, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held at the Facilities Management and General Services Group (FMGSG) Conference Room, 24th Floor, Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" and "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on **May 24, 2002** (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 24th Floor Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ**
Chairman,
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Building Project

(PDI – April 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Deadline

Q. Why is a time or date when something must be completed called a *deadline?*

A. The original deadline was literally deadly. It was a line or boundary marked out round a fence at a notorious prisoner-of-war camp in the American Civil War (1861-1865). Any prisoner who attempted to cross this line was shot on sight. By the 1920 the term was in common use as a time limit, such as a newspaper's deadline, and the penalty for crossing it was considerably less deadly.

For the Record. Only late in human history did governments come to rely on taxes for the bulk of their revenue, especially on taxes imposed equitably and with the consent of the governed. For centuries, public lands were the chief source of public revenues and taxation consisted largely of taxes on domestic consumption and customs duties on foreign trade. It was the duty of the underprivileged classes -- slaves, peasants, conquered peoples -- to support the ruling classes, whether they were the free citizens of Athens and Rome, the lords and nobles of the feudal barony, or the courtiers of King Louis XIV of France. Taxes as a badge of freedom rather than a mark of bondage are a modern phenomenon.

Ganito Sila Noon. During the Spanish Period all Filipinos, ages 19 to 60, were taxed the equivalent of P1 for the privilege of being royal subjects of Spain. The tax was payable in cash, either gold or silver, or in kind -- rice, tobacco, cloth, poultry, or whatever other form of tribute acceptable to the tax collector.

WORD WATCH

Tax (taks) : from the Latin *taxare*, "assess, appraise," which, in turn, derives from another Latin word *tangere* (as in *Noli Me Tangere*), "touch."

PDI -- April 19, 2002

A Message of Thanks

From the Family of the late

Dr. Juan "Johnny" O. Tan

Who was called home by our Heavenly Father
on April 8, 2002

His bereaved wife **Nelly**; children **Jeffrey & Irene Tan**, **Janet & Chester Chua**; grandchildren **Jerene**, **Jenica**, **Jefferson Tan** and **Cedric Chua**; brothers, sisters and in-laws **Jose & Helen Tan**, **Pete & Anita Tan**, **Francisco & Siok Cheng Tan**, **Siok Lu & Jesus Lu (†)**, **Emma (†) & Jose Ang (†)**, **Rosie & Julian Serrano**; wish to thank all those who condoled with them in their hour of sorrow and grief.

High Flight

"Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth.
And danced the sky on laughter-silvered wings.
Sunward I've climbed, and joined
the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds.

And done a hundred things you have not dreamed of,
wheeled and soared and swung high
in the sunlit silence.
Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along,
and flung my eager craft
through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long delirious, burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace.
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.

And, while with silent, lifting mind
I've trod the untrespassed sanctity of space,
put out my hand, and touched
the face of God."

In loving memory of

Capt. Don S. Sardalla

on the occasion of his 2nd anniversary
of birth to eternal life.
July 12, 1952 – April 19, 2000

From Patti, Iggy, Carla and Leo

We enjoin relatives, friends, neighbors and colleagues to remember Sonny and remember him in your prayers, including the other crew members and passengers of the ill-fated Air Philippines Flight 541.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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CLASSIFIEDS

SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : April 16, 2002

The SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMELCO I) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the following items for its expansion projects funded by the government subsidy:

Item No.	Quantity	Description
1.	365 pcs	Various sizes of Treated Distribution Wood Poles
2.	258 pcs	Treated Anchor Logs, 4 Feet
3.	30 pcs	Treated Distribution Crossarm, Wood, 8 Feet

All above items must conform with NEA 7.62/13.2 KV Line Construction Specifications

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and obtain bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

SAMELCO I Headquarters
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must submit/meet the following requirement to be eligible for the bidding:

1. Company profile;
2. List of clients;

For purposes of clarification and to discuss the details of the item due for bidding, a pre-bid conference will be held on **April 23, 2002** at 2:00 PM at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 2:00 PM on **April 30, 2002** accompanied by bidders bond in cash or cashier's check in the amount equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or the bidder's authorized representative at the address above at 2:00 PM on **April 30, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **LEONARDO B. PICZON JR.**
Board President

(PDI--April 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

National Power Corporation

Small Power Utilities Group
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

For the SALE of Waste Oil & Used Drums
"as is, where is"
Date of Bid Opening : May 3, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
WASTE OIL (Bunker) at Calapan DPP, Calapan, Mindoro	P1.22/Liter
DRUMS, Used at PB120, Balanacan Pier, Mogpog, Marinduque	P614.25/pc
WASTE OIL (Bunker), One (1) Year Accumulation of PB120, Balanacan Pier, Mogpog, Marinduque	P1.22/Liter
WASTE OIL (Bunker), One (1) Year Accumulation of PB106 Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa	P1.22/Liter

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until the abovestated date, 2:00 PM at NPC-SPUG Office, 2/F Training Center Bldg., NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2000) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P.F. VICTORIA at the above address or call tel. No. 9228449/9213541 Local 5583.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) **R.C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI--April 18, 19 & 20, 2002)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

INVITATION/NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED APPLICANTS

For the Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of Tollway Service Facility at the North and South Luzon Tollway

The Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC) with offices at EDSA (corner Reliance St.), Mandaluyong City is inviting any interested natural or juridical person from the private sector for the establishment, operation and maintenance of Tollway Service Facilities (TSF) along the North and South Luzon Tollways to submit their proposals thereto. To qualify for submission, an applicant must:

(1) In case of a Service Area Proponent, be qualified under Section 5.0, Chapter II of Republic Act 8479 otherwise known as the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998 and Section 4.0, Rule II of the Department of Energy Circular No. 98-03-004 dated 11 March 1998 Promulgating the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 8479.

In case of a Rest Area Proponent, be qualified and authorized under the law to do business in the Philippines.

(2) Be first registered as an applicant with PNCC between **April 12 to May 2, 2002** during office hours and secure therefrom copy(ies) of the Terms of Reference which sets forth the pertinent information, instructions and requirements attendant to the application upon payment of a non-refundable sum of P1,000.00 per TOR.

Only registered applicants as aforestated or their duly authorized representative(s) who have secured the aforesaid Terms of Reference are required to attend a conference or briefing on the subject matter on May 3 in the aforesaid PNCC office 9:00 AM. Non-attendance shall be deemed as a waiver of the right to thenceforth participate in the ensuing processes.

PNCC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

This Invitation / Notice shall be published in two newspapers of general circulation once a week for three consecutive weeks commencing on 05 April 2002.

(Sgd.) **LUIS F. SISON**
Chairman & CEO

(PDI - April 5, 12 & 19, 2002)

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In Loving Memory
of

Alexander Robert "Bobby" Calderon Gordon

Who peacefully joined His Creator on April 18, 2002 at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife **Zenaida "Aida"**; children **George** and **Bettina**, **Gabby** and **Verna**, **Gina** and **Oscar Coscolluela III**; grandchildren **David** and **Sarah**, **Stevie**, **Javi** and **Johann**; brothers and sisters **Dee** and **Nene Gonzaga**, **Nonotte** and **Marilu**, **John** and **Terry**, **Betty Mae** and **Ernie Tanguilig**; brother-in-law **Oscar Gonzales** and wife **Lydia**; nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request you to join us in celebrating Dad's coming home to the Lord.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 21, 2002. Cremation will immediately follow at the Loyola Memorial Crematory.

Heraclio Tantoco Reyes

Peacfully joined our Lord on April 17, 2002 at the age of 90.

His dearest wife Herminia; children Hilda and Joey Antonio, Hector and Verne Cuyugan, Herry and Fe Agoncillo, and Helen and Jimmy Silva; grandchildren Jigger, Marco, Robbie and Carlo Antonio; Shinee, Koolee and Kaki Reyes; Jamila, Anela and Gerrick Reyes, and Erica and Sandro Silva; brothers and sisters Godofredo(+), Felicula(+), Tirso(+), Conrado(+), Ismael(+), Leonor, Adolfo(+), Leopoldo, and Benjamin(+), in-laws, nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the San Antonio Church, Capilla de la Virgen, Forbes Park, Makati.

Interment will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2002 after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 8:00 am.

"You will forever be in our hearts Tatay"

NICASIO B. MANALO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 16, 2002 at the age of 59.

His loving wife **MELY**; children **POCHET & HELEN, CHICKIT & JUN, NENE & JAY, W & JUN, T & BEN**; brother **BONG**; sister **NINA**; grandchildren **AYA, NIKKO, CHOYAN, TUPHER, NITOY, JEM, MIC-MIC, PEN-PEN & BEA**; brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, April 20, 2002, 1:00 p.m. at the La Funeraria Paz Crematory, Quezon City.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

Our Beloved Mama

LOURDES R. NAVARRETE

Joined our Creator on April 16, 2002
in Carson, California, U.S.A.
at the age of 87 and will be reunited
with our beloved Daddy
Maximo S. Navarrete †

Her children
Rolando, Mae, June, Linda, Lillian & Imelda

Son's and Daughters-in-law
Norma, Fe, Tony, Mark, Albert & Joey;

Grandchildren
Noel Reynaldo (Bong^2), Beverly Grace, Michael, Rolando Jr., Lourgelie Anne, Nathalie, Claudette, Reina, Jonathan, Raymond, Antoniette, Patrick & Christian;

Sister
Legionaria Panopio

Greatgrandchildren, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.
Memorial services will be offered in St. Felomina Catholic Church in Carson, California, U.S.A.
Her cremated remains will be brought to the Philippines.
Services to be announced later.

The Management and Staff of the
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
condole with the family of

MARIO D. MALICSI

Vice President

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 15, 2002 at the age of 46.

We join his bereaved family: wife **Ma. Carmen**; and children **Ma. Kirstin Ann** and **Ma. Ciara Lou**; relatives and friends in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT

Message of Thanks

Elizabeth Fernandez Mamenta

of Tayug, Pangasinan and Brooksville, Florida, USA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 16, 2001.

We, the family: mother **LYDIA**; sister **MARILOU**; brother **JONG**; sister-in-law **TONI** (nee **Dra. Antonia Sison**); nephews and nieces wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who remember **BETH** in their prayers.

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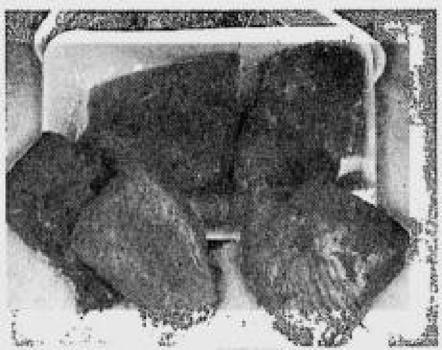
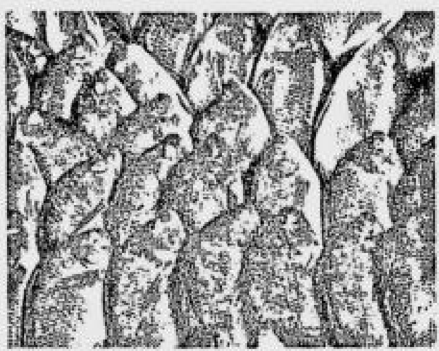
UNION Stand Fan 16" Fan Blade, RL-16 VAT INCLUSIVE P730

PUREFOODS Tender Juicy Cocktail Hotdog 1 Kg. VAT INCLUSIVE P138



TUNA SASHIMI VAT EXEMPT P215 per kilo



TILAPIA MEDIUM VAT EXEMPT P50 per kilo

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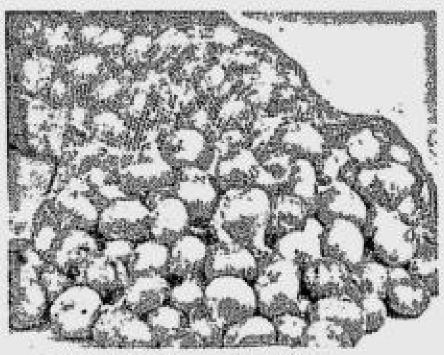
Director's Chair

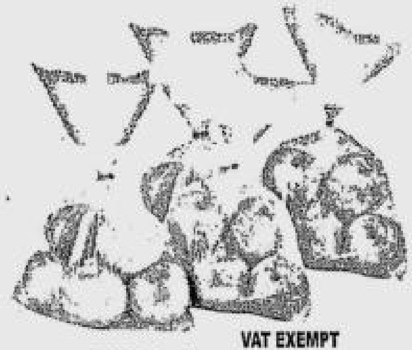
NB Entertainment Center VAT INCLUSIVE P1,785

NB Office Chair Leatherette Black & Grey Colors With Arms & Gaslift TK108A VAT INCLUSIVE P1,295

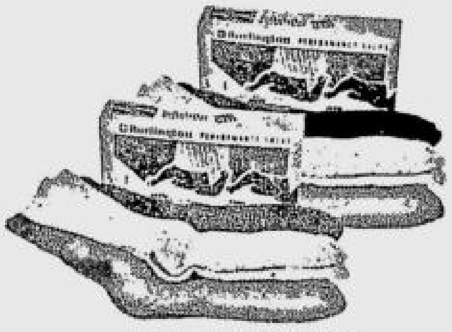
SUNRICE Sinandomeng Rice 25 Kgs. VAT EXEMPT P475 per sack P19 per kilo



RED ONIONS 3 Kgs./pack VAT EXEMPT P43.50 per pack

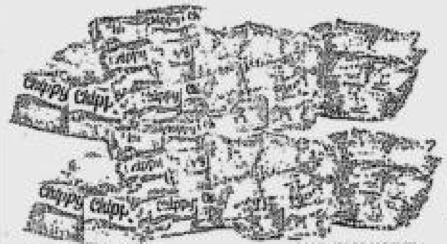


FUJI Apples 6 pcs./pack VAT EXEMPT P62 per pack



Men's Socks Gift Pack, 3's VAT INCLUSIVE P75

PROMAC Rice Cooker With Steamer VAT INCLUSIVE P575



JACK 'N JILL Chippy BBQ/Chili Cheese **Choco Knots/ Mini Choco Pretzels** 30 G. x 25 VAT INCLUSIVE P90 P3.60 per piece

PUREFOODS Chinese Luncheon Meat 350 G. x 4

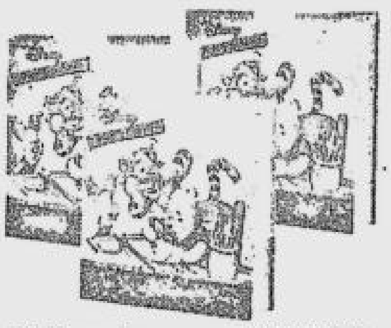
VAT INCLUSIVE P788 per box, 24's P32.83 per can

VAT INCLUSIVE P134 per pack, 4's P33.50 per can

SAFEGUARD Soap Beige/Fruity/Green/ White, 90 G.

VAT INCLUSIVE P1,315 per box, 12x8's P13.70 per piece

VAT INCLUSIVE P169 per pack, 12's P14.08 per piece



NB Magnetic Photo Album 20 Pages, Assorted Designs VAT INCLUSIVE P299

Ladies' Haltered Shirt VAT INCLUSIVE P65

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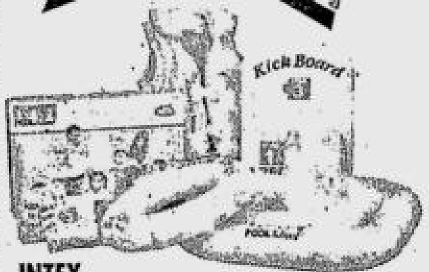
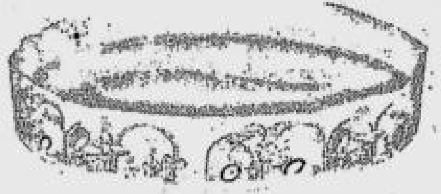
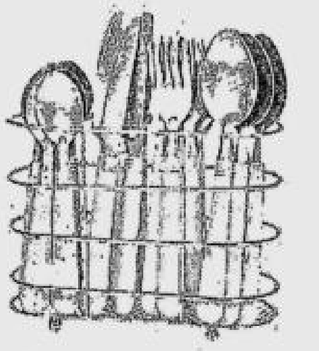


INTEX Pool School Deluxe Swimming Trainer Set With Swim Ring, Swim Vest, Arm Bands, Baby Floats & Kickboard VAT INCLUSIVE P529



INTEX Bicycle Snapset Pool 5' x 10', #58451 VAT INCLUSIVE P299

OSAKI Ironing Board 38" VAT INCLUSIVE P239



NB 24-pc. Cutlery Set VAT INCLUSIVE P199

NB 2-Step Ladder Metal VAT INCLUSIVE P339

AROMA Pressure Cooker 6 Qt. VAT INCLUSIVE P599

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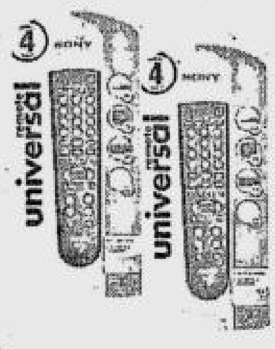
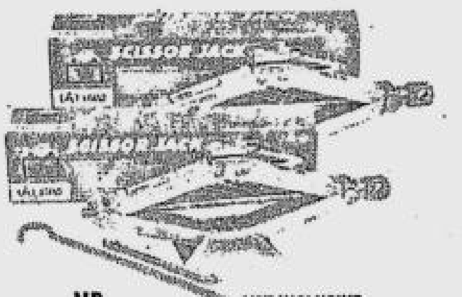
ARO Pillow 18" x 28" VAT INCLUSIVE P109



SONY Universal Remote Control RMV8A20 VAT INCLUSIVE P429



NB Scissor Jack 1.5 T, ST105 VAT INCLUSIVE P349

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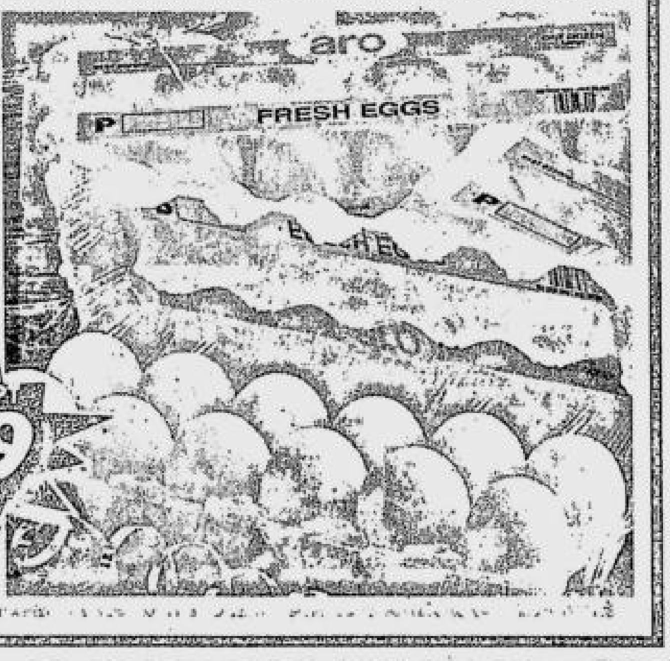
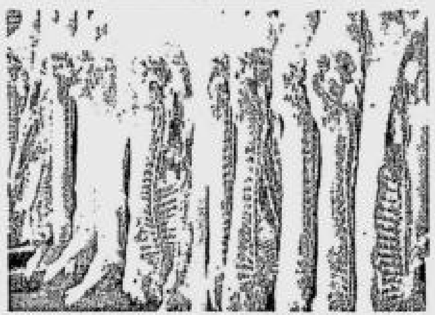
2 x 1 Dozen

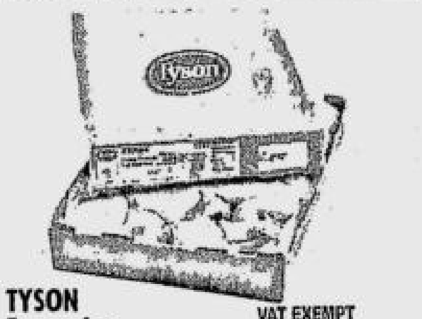


VAT EXEMPT P69 per pack



PORK CARCASS Headless, Trimmed VAT EXEMPT P91 per kilo

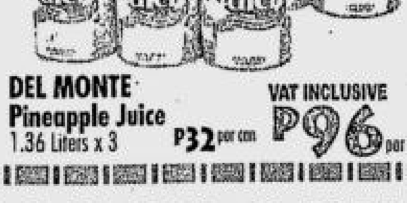
MAGNOLIA Frozen Whole Chicken VAT EXEMPT P60 per kilo



TYSON Frozen Leg Quarter Cut 15 Kgs./box P64 per kilo VAT EXEMPT P960 per pack

GILBEY'S London Dry Gin 700 mL. VAT INCLUSIVE P90

ARO French Fries 4.5 lbs. VAT INCLUSIVE P115



DEL MONTE Pineapple Juice 1.36 Liters x 3 P32 per can VAT INCLUSIVE P96 per pack

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BusinessFriday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

What's the difference between selling shampoo and a phone?

RAMIREZ: Arousing the sleeping giant.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHAT's the difference between selling shampoo and a telephone?

Not much, if you ask veteran marketing man Claro P. Ramirez, senior vice president for the Greater Metro Manila retail business group of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

After all, that is what he is doing now—applying his mass marketing know-how to telecommunications.

"Personalization is basic marketing. While you categorize different markets that are different from each other, the fundamentals are the same. A good marketing person recognizes the same things," states Ramirez who worked at Colgate Palmolive for 18 years before PLDT head Manuel V. Pangilinan finally convinced him to join his team.

"Shampoos are popular because of the sachets. Pre-paid cell phone cards are the equivalent of shampoo sachets—same quality, same product, same enjoyment at an affordable price."

"When you talk to customers, they will tell you many of their needs and wants and what they want to enjoy. But they have no money," Ramirez states.

This in essence is the strategy PLDT is adopting to play catch-up with the growth in the cellular phone market, which toppled the sleeping giant from its post as the dominant telecommunications company in the country.

PLDT had long been a sleeping giant, and it

WHAT'S/ C2

GODIVA challenges imported products

Skin care firm goes for classy packaging to get clients

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

HOMEGROWN skin care companies that have big plans of pitting their products against imported ones usually face stiff resistance from the local buyers.

Rightly or wrongly, Filipino buyers think that skin care products manufactured locally are inferior to the imported counterparts, and the cheap looking packaging and containers are not exactly helping the Filipino firms' cause.

These were the challenges faced by Godiva Inc. when it first launched its line of skin whiteners in 1996, and it responded by investing in top-quality packaging for its products and accompanying leaflets and brochures.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Godiva recognized that the products should look at least as good as the imported products if it wants to attract the attention of its target A,B and upper C markets.

"We positioned ourselves as a high-end product because we use only quality ingredients which do not come cheap. We believe that our competitors are companies like Nivea and Neutrogena that also produce whitening lotions and soaps," explains Godiva president Fred C. Reyes.

Reyes tells Business Friday that Godiva is not in the same market as many of the local companies selling whitening products because its products are more expensive, and rightly so because its main raw material—licorice—is much more expensive.

"The kind of licorice that we use for Godiva products cost about P1 million a kilo, while the hydroquinone used by other companies selling whitening products cost only a fraction of that amount," Reyes adds.

A 65-gram Godiva skin whitening cream, thus, sells for P170 compared to only about P30 to P50 for a Block and White product of the same size.

Godiva, however, stuck to using the licorice extract as it believes that it is the most effective natural whitening agent in the market, about 16 times more effective than hydroquinone.

Educating the public about the benefits of the licorice-based creams of Godiva is the main message behind its advertising campaigns. It targets the weekly and glossy magazines, but it is more heavily into leaflets and brochures.

Leaflets and brochures distributed in the key distribution centers such as the malls, department stores and drugstores, are more effective in explaining the benefits of licorice compared to a simple ad.

"We emphasize on the education campaign to get to our market because there are other companies that claim to use licorice. But we believe that the others do not have the substance Glabridin which has the power to whiten skin," Reyes explains.

The Glabridin whitens skin by suppressing the formation of melanin (which produces the dark pigmentation of the skin).

Godiva even goes so far as to claim that its products can noticeably whiten skin in just seven days. It says it has the certification from the Bureau of Food and Drug Administration to prove it.

Godiva was born in 1996 when Reyes'

SKIN/ C3

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Haven't filed your ITR?

By Suzette L. Lopez
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

IF YOU haven't filed your income tax return (ITR) yet, it may be because you dreaded the usual long queues of taxpayers in authorized agent banks and offices of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

But there is really no reason to fear as the BIR issued Revenue Regulations No. 3-2002 (dated March 22, 2002), which allowed substituted filing of income tax returns.

This means that you may no longer have to file your ITR. Instead, the filing by your employer of the Annual Information Return of Income Taxes Withheld on Compensation and Final Withholding Taxes (BIR Form No. 1604-CF) with the BIR shall be tantamount to your filing of your ITR. Your employer is required to file this annual information return on or before Jan. 31 of the succeeding year, under the Expanded Withholding Tax Regulations (Revenue Regulations No. 2-98, as amended).

But before you get too excited, check first if you satisfy the following conditions:

1. You are an individual taxpayer. (That should be quite obvious!)

2. You receive purely compensation income. Or, your sole income for the year has been subject to final withholding tax.

3. You must only have one employer for the tax year. (Sorry, moonlighters.)

4. The income tax due from you is equivalent to the amount of tax already withheld by your employer.

You should also check, if you do not have the following disqualifications. (Go ahead, make this article your instant checklist.)

1. Your employer, for some reason or another, was not able to withhold the correct amount of tax.

2. Your monthly gross income does not exceed P5,000 or the statutory minimum wage, whichever is higher, and you have already opted for non-withholding of tax.

3. You have other non-business, non-profession-related income that is not subject to a final tax.

4. Your spouse falls under any of the above disqualifications, even if you are receiving purely compensation income from a single employer and your income tax has been correctly withheld. (Even in taxes, you and your spouse become one.)

5. You are a non-resident alien engaged in trade or business in the country deriving purely compensation income, or compensation income and other non-business, non-profession-related income.

If you are one of those married individuals not qualified for substituted filing of returns, remember to file only one ITR covering the income you and your spouse received for the taxable year, which both of you must sign, unless it is physically impossible to do so, in which case the signature of one of you will suffice.

By the way, you and your employer will also have to do something. It's not too difficult. You and your employer must jointly execute a certification stating the following:

1. Your consent that the filing of the annual information return shall be considered a substituted filing of your ITR to the extent that the information contained is consistent with the certificate of income tax withheld;

2. Your total compensation income and the amount of tax withheld;

3. These amounts have been reported in the annual information return, which report is consistent with the information contained in the Certificate of Income Tax Withheld on Compensation (BIR Form No. 2316) or in the Certificate of Income Taxes Withheld at Source (BIR Form No. 2307), as may be applicable; and

4. The information stated in the certification is true and correct to the best of your and your employer's knowledge.

For your income covering 2001, make sure that the joint certification is executed on or before April 15. For incomes on subsequent years, the joint certification should be executed on or before Jan. 31 of the following year.

In all instances, you and your employer should always retain a copy of the certification.

You must be curious about what the joint certification is for after all, you will be signing it. Fortunately, it will serve the same purpose as that of a filed ITR. This means it can be used as proof of financial capacity for purposes of loan, credit card, or other applications. It can also be used for the purpose of availing tax credit in your home country, securing travel tax exemption and for other purposes in various government agencies. Quite neat. Don't you think?

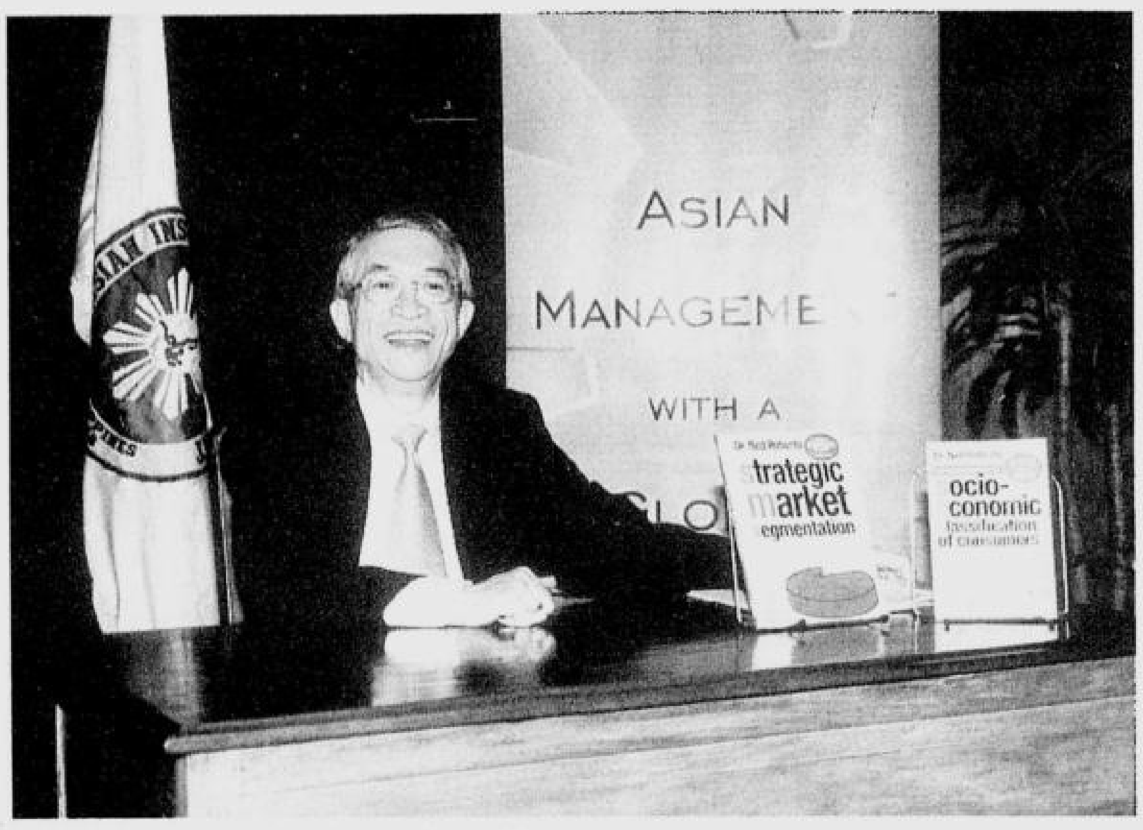
One more thing, it would help to remind your employer to furnish you and your co-employees with the Certificate of Income Taxes Withheld (BIR Form No. 2307 or 2316, as the case may be), if this has not been done yet.

The certificate is required to be given to you on or before Jan. 31. If employment is terminated before the close of the taxable year, the same must be given on the day on which the last payment of compensation is made.

Under the new regulation, failure to furnish the certificate to the employees shall be grounds for a mandatory audit of the employer's income tax liabilities, including withholding tax, upon a verified complaint of an employee.

For now (taxable year 2001), the substituted filing of ITRs is optional. Beginning next year, it will be mandatory.

New books show how to market to 'masa'



ROBERTO addresses critical marketing problems.

ARE you segmenting your market the right way? Who really are the Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class DE market segments? How should you decide on the primary target market segment? What are the strategic means for profiling market segments? What are the attitudes and buying habits of your market segment? What will make them buy?

These and other critical marketing problems and issues are addressed by Asia's marketing guru, Ned Roberto, in his new books entitled "Strategic Market Segmentation: How to Market to the Rich, the Middle Class and the 'Masa'" and "The Marketer's Guide To Socio-Economic Classification of Consumers." The books are published by the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

International marketing expert and all-time best-selling marketing author Philip Kotler describes "Strategic Market Segmentation" as "a very thoughtful book about how to segment the market, that marketers would benefit by reading."

"Strategic Market Segmentation" teaches readers how to market and sell to the rich (class AB), the middle class (class C) and the *masa* (class DE). "Any one who wants to formulate a selling strategy to the masa should find helpful clues from Dr. Ned's book," according to Minyong Ordoñez, chair of Basic Advertising.

"The Marketer's Guide To Socio-Economic Classification of Consumers," meanwhile, provides valuable insights to the socio-economic classifications (SEC) and the SEC indicators currently used by research agencies to define target markets. The book includes extensive research and studies on the background and history of the SEC determinants and an at-a-glance guide to how many class ABCDE consumers there are in the Philippines.

"Ned Roberto's book clarifies a long debated issue among marketing practitioners. It is clear and concise, and provides examples that will assist users of market research. This is a must read for the serious marketer," says J.J. Races, president of the Philippine Marketing Association.

Ned Roberto is a noted marketing consultant, speaker, international author, and educator. Dr. Ned, as he is fondly called, holds an MBA and PhD in Marketing from the Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business. He is the Coca-Cola professor of International Marketing at the AIM and has also taught at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business in Chicago, and the Insead in France.

The celebrated author has written many books, including "Social Marketing" which he co-authored with his former professor Philip Kotler. It is now translated into seven languages. His best-selling book, "User-Friendly Marketing Research, was first published in December 1996 and is now in its third print run.

Taking pictures that sell

IT TAKES a lot of elements put together to create an effective advertising material. One major factor is a captivating and exciting photograph of products and its talent endorsers—pictures that will sell.

A lot of good concepts go to waste when given a poor exposure. This is precisely why advertisers invest heavily on good photographers to meet this objective.

April Son, the owner of Bratz Studio at the Megamall, studied photography in Vancouver, Canada. She specializes in advertising photography and digital imaging. "During pre-production meetings I discuss with the client and the creative director the following: the advertising objective, the concept and, most importantly, the brand image. These will guide me when I take the images. Advertisers usually provide the compre studies for me to follow. But I only use compres as a guide and always try to take alternative shots—which ad agencies call safety shots. I break away from the "canned" compres and try to look through the product or the model. I make sure that I capture the very soul of the brand and that the photos will help communicate its message to its target market."

It usually works for April most of the time. Her clients usually pick the photos that were products, not of the compres, but of her vision.

Jenni Gonzales, a marketing consultant and one of Son's clients, says, "Her photographs always give justice to the concept and an accurate projection of the brand image. And for whatever reason, the brands captured by her lenses always sell well. It must be the passion she gives her job." Another client, Doris Ripalda, Plains & Prints sales and operations manager, adds: "April's work discipline is truly impressive. She works fast and still manages to come up with great images."

Son stresses, "I look into every detail: the lights, props, and make sure everything jells to produce a quality image. If the pictures look cheap or shoddy, it will definitely rub off on the brand. I look into the eyes of my models and make sure they are able to connect to their audience."

Unlike most photo studios which are full of pictures of beautiful faces, Son's studio is full of attractive ad materials of different products—ice cream, beauty products, canned foods, etc.

MJ Guzman

APRIL Son with her advertising images

Pana holds first seminar for the year

THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers (Pana) will be conducting its first seminar for the year entitled "Marketing Pitfalls."

Pana education and research committee director Raul S. Alvarez of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and committee chair Tristan Leveriza of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines said the seminar will be held on May 22 to 24, 2002 at the Davao Ballroom of The Westin Philippine Plaza. This three-day seminar will be conducted only every afternoon from 1:30 onward.

This seminar will provide the audience with speakers who will discuss cases of marketing failures that include mistakes made in the area of branding, merchandising, choice of media, budget, below-the-line activities, creative positioning and strategic thinking.

All these are meant to provide the audience with a list of what-not-to-do in marketing.

Some of the topics to be discussed are "What Some Successful Marketing Strategies Don't Tell You;" "Some Sales Promotion Ideas Don't Deliver The Results;" "It Doesn't Make Sense to Reformulate An Already Winning Formula;" "A Cheap Budget Is Often Money Wasted and Disastrous to the Brand;" "A Heavy Reliance on Research Can Blindside You;" and, "Beautiful Ads Don't Necessarily Mean Guaranteed Sales."

What's the difference between selling shampoo and a phone?

From page C1

had every reason to take things easily because it was a monopoly. For decades, it was the country's sole source of telecommunications.

Every time somebody made a call, it earned. Every time somebody called a relative or friend abroad, it earned.

But it slept too long and when technology provided an alternative, it realized it was getting left behind fast and losing lots of revenue potentials in the process.

Fighting cellular

Ramirez says PLDT realizes that its main competitor is not the other telephone companies that also went into the land line business, rather it is the ubiquitous gadget that Filipinos cannot seem to do without—cellular phones.

Ramirez recently unveiled to Business Friday the strategy of the telephone firm to recapture its dominance.

"Our main competitor is the cell phone," Ramirez admits. "That is the preferred way of communicating. We can't do anything outside the house. But in the home we are the fixed line provider. Our bastion is the home."

This is why its retail marketing vision is anchored on the tagline "Own the Home."

"We need to reinvent the fixed line and make it more personal and more delightful to use," Ramirez states.

At the heart of this, Ramirez says is to enable the consumer to do all his transactions (no longer called calls amid the diverse use of a communication line) in the house at affordable costs.

With the popularity of cellular phones which easily outpaced the number of fixed lines in two years, PLDT's strategy is to make the land line as personalized and as multi-featured as the cell phone. In short, give it SMS capability.

There are about 11 million cellular phone users versus the 2.2 million fixed lines of PLDT.

Ramirez says studies show that seven out of 12 mobile calls are made in stationary places. "They are not literally mobile."

And when they asked their consumers what they wanted out of their land line, the responses were: cell phone features but minus the dropped calls, the choppy signals or no signal modes; and be able to send SMS (short message system or text).

Question of cost

Last year, PLDT made the move toward the strategy with its 'Text 135'—callers are able to send a text via the land line. However this was only one way—the landline was not capable of receiving messages. But not anymore.

PLDT launched the two-way texting on the landline to 50 of their clients. The customers were given a device each that allows two-way texting. Commercial use will be launched in a couple of months. Ramirez says the biggest users of Text 135 will be given the privilege to be the first users of the two-way service.

Ramirez says the availability of services for the fixed lines are already varied. It is only a question of cost. Are the consumers willing to pay the price to have the full range of services?

PLDT's strategy is to cut up the market into segments or markets and customize services appropriate to the different types of homes.

"We will bundle our services to different families," he explains.

Much like the different phone plans provided by the cellular phone firms—personal, business, or executive plans; PLDT will launch programs like Teletipid for bachelors and newly-weds; the Teleplus for the early next stage or the empty nest and the Teleconnect which is for a full next family and other variants.

But beyond providing the consumers tailor fit phone services, Ramirez wants to catch up with the number of cell phones in the country by giving phone sets a base station. This means that family members will have their own lines in the same way that a cellular phone owner has his own phone number.

The concept is each fixed line will have sub-numbers. The concept is still being studied but could be launched soon. Ramirez says once operational, PLDT's subscriber base will immediately jump. PLDT is initially looking at five sub-numbers for each and if each fixed line owner avails of the maximum capability, their subscribers will increase to 11 million—equal to the number of cell phone owners.

Veteran in marketing

Ramirez is a veteran in the mass marketing business. He was with Colgate Palmolive for 18 years. After finishing economics from the Ateneo de Manila University, he joined Colgate Palmolive where he became a product manager for the Ajax detergent bar; moved on to become a senior product manager for new products group; then group product manager for the oral care category.

He was then assigned to the Global Business Development in Colgate Palmolive in New York in 1990 where he was responsible for the Colgate Dental Crème new geography and school education program. In the United States he developed the Dentrifice Portfolio Management Strategy for worldwide adoption.

He was also assigned in Argentina where he was responsible for 36 products in oral care, body care, household surface care business totaling $60 million in sales with an advertising budget of $8 million.

In 1994 he was brought back to Manila as marketing director where he was made responsible for more than 50 product lines with total gross sales of P5.8 billion and an advertising budget of P850 million.

Two other telephone companies had courted him including Bayantel and Globe Telecoms before he finally said yes to PLDT three years ago.

He admits that it is not easy to blend because of the culture that existed in the telephone firm. The Metro Pacific group of Hong Kong took over PLDT, then under the Cojuangcos for P30 billion in 1998.

No more doors

He admits that a lot of cleaning up had to be done and the culture had to be changed in PLDT. He recalls that in the past the employees were not used to speaking directly to the bosses.

The seventh floor, which was the executive floor, had enclosed rooms. When Metro Pacific took over, the walls were torn down and only dividers were placed. The walls of the executives' offices were made into glass so there was literal transparency in all transactions.

He says the sheer size of the telecommunications firm which had almost 20,000 employees before made it difficult to institute change.

"It's like directing a big ship—it takes a while to maneuver," Ramirez says.

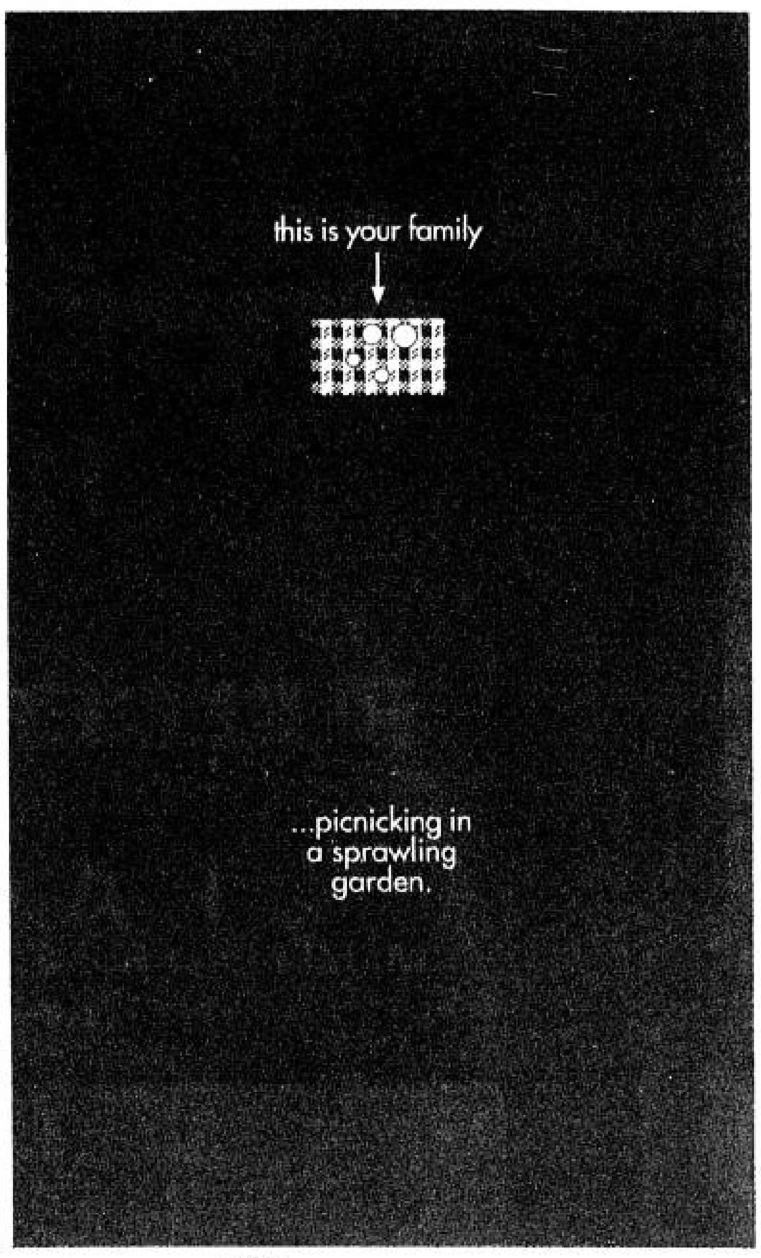
Skin care . . .

From page C1

chemical trading firm Chemworld had difficulty selling the licorice extract to the local manufacturers of skin care products. Only dermatologists found some use for the licorice extract.

It was named Godiva because it means "gift of God" in Greek, not really as homage to Lady Godiva who was supposed to have ridden naked on a horse.

When demand for the licorice grew, Reyes thought that the product must be really good and if the other skin care companies are not willing to use it, then he would use it for his own skin care line.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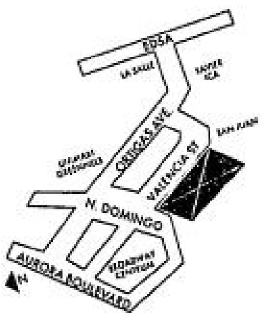

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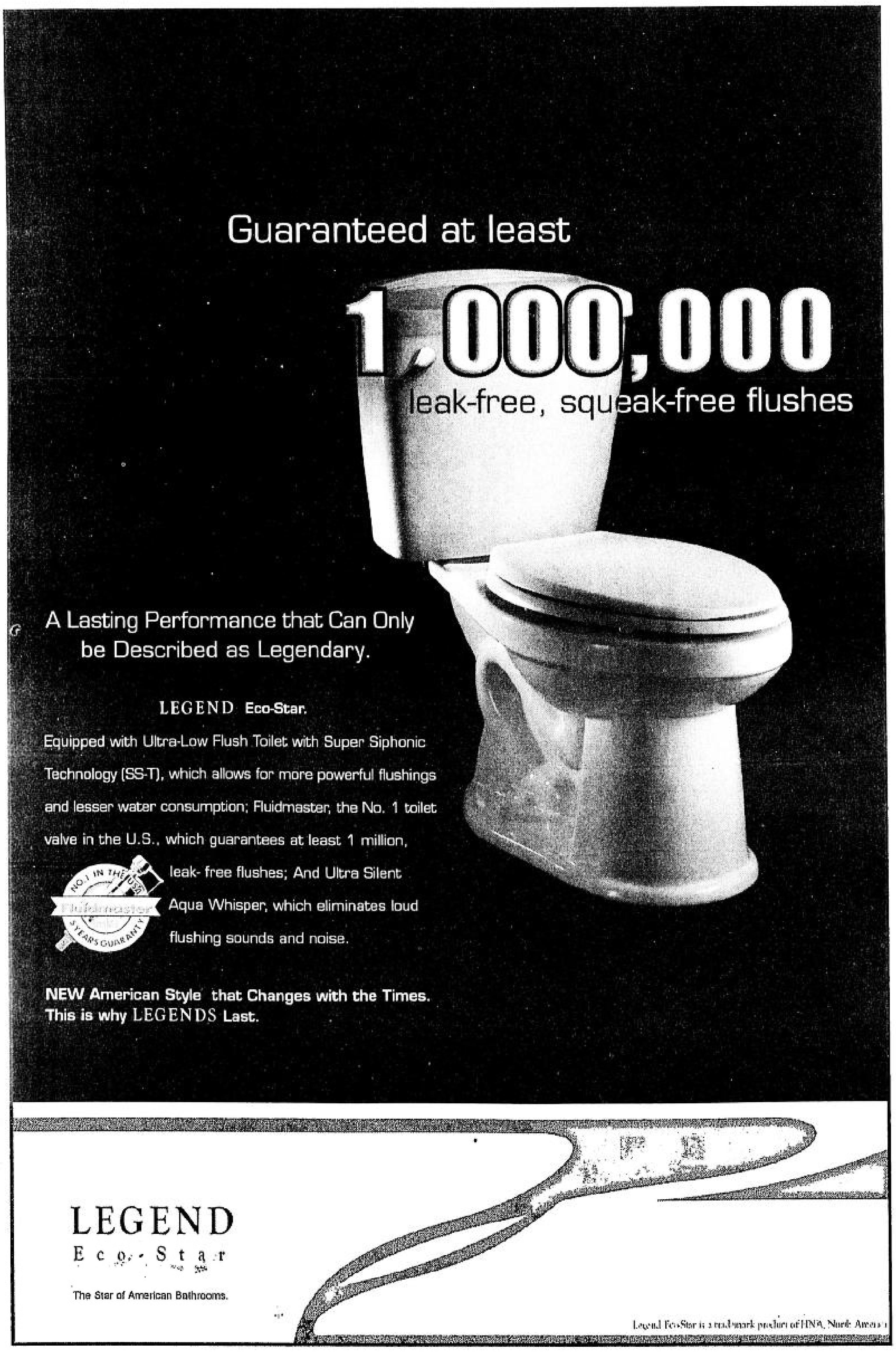

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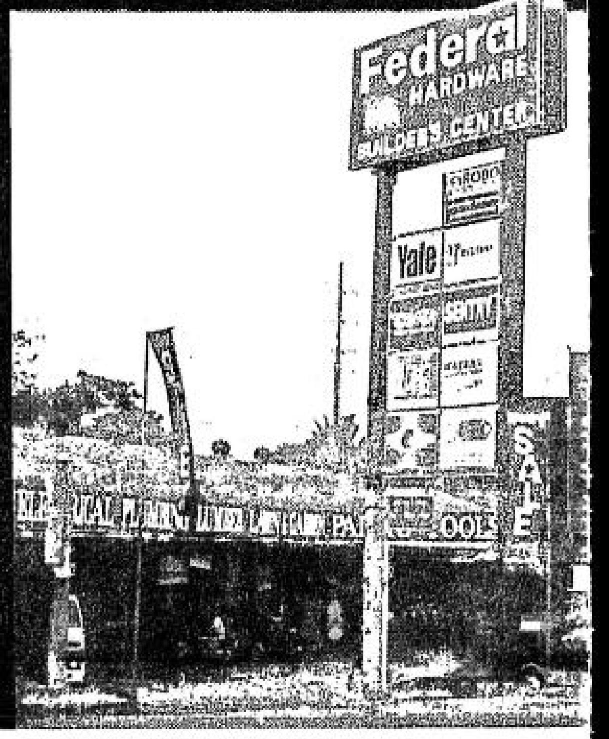

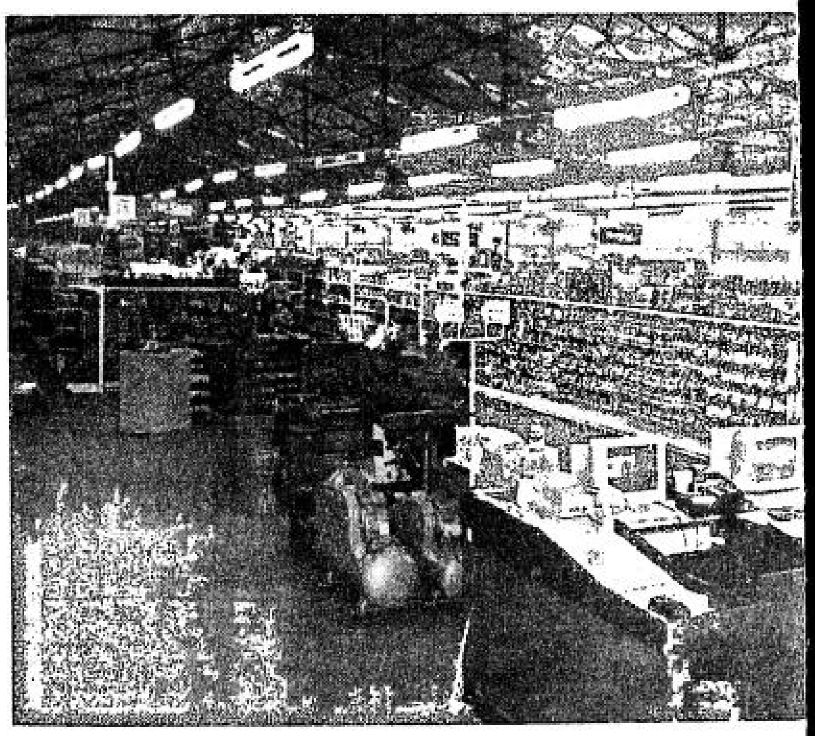

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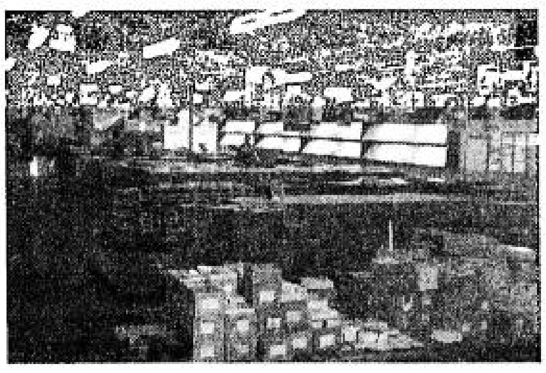

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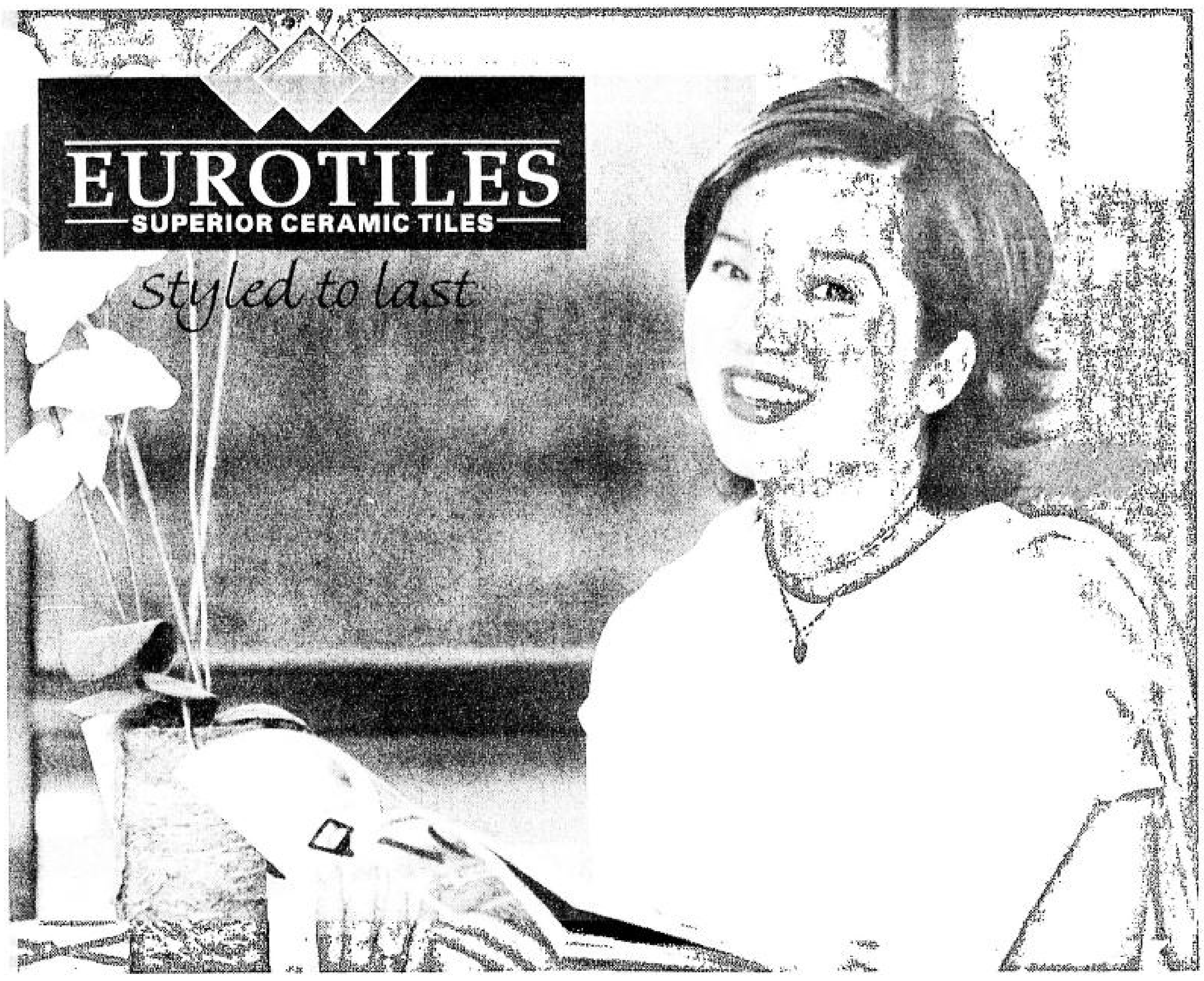
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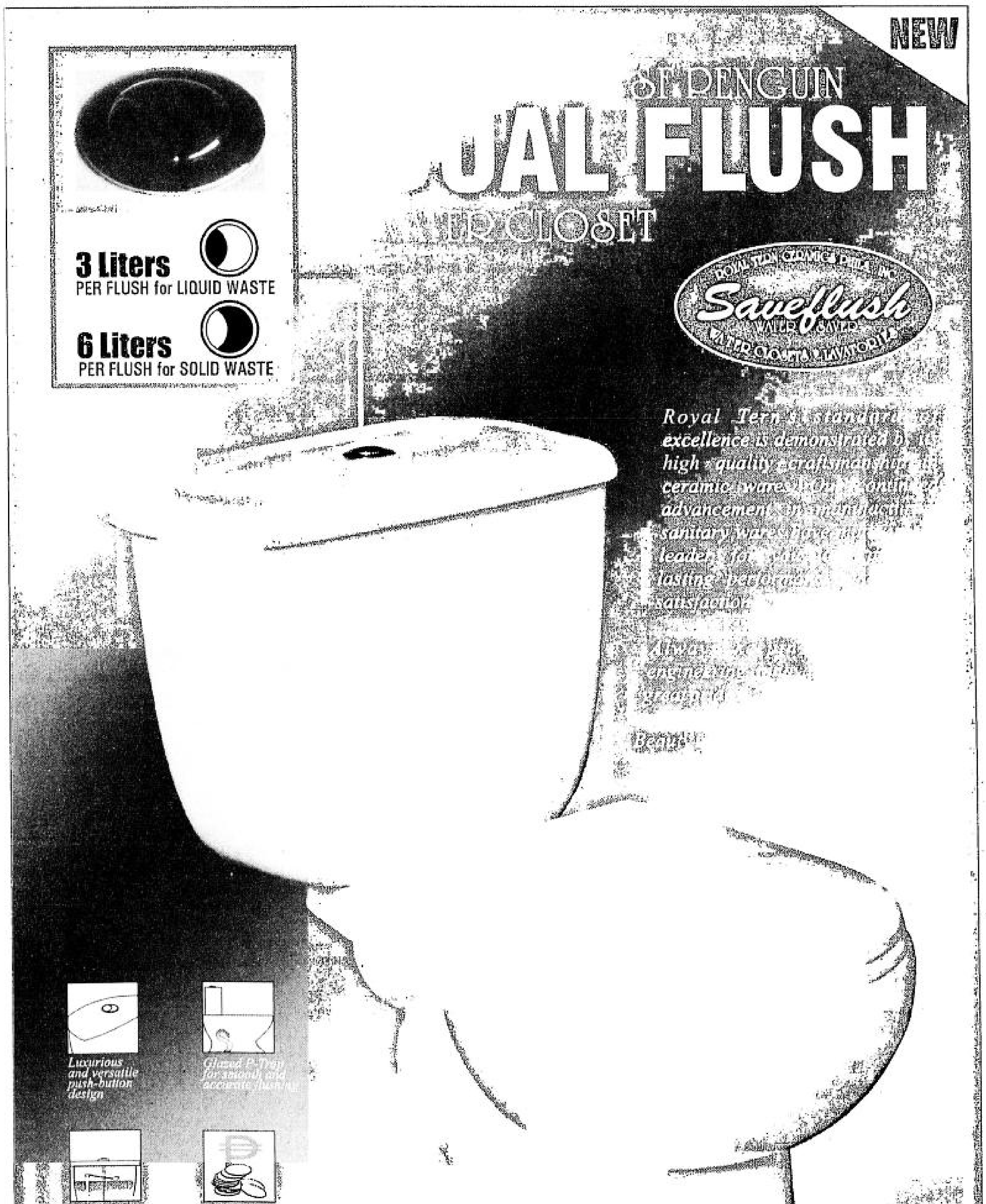
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Aries Espinosa, Editor

IIR Exhibitions announces merger for CommAsia 2002

WITH THE main objective of consolidating the information communications technology industry and coming up with just one comprehensive exhibition for the industry, IIR Exhibitions Philippines Inc. (IIRX) is pleased to announce that it has recently signed a memorandum of agreement with HQ Link to merge all the current Telecomex Asia exhibitors with IIRX's CommAsia 2002 exhibition. This exhibition will be held from May 9 to 11 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

Benefiting from this tie-up are the exhibitors of both events, as they will now all be in CommAsia 2002, thus making this the biggest event ever. Patrick Lawrence Tan, managing director for Asia of IIRX, is upbeat with this development and looks forward to providing trade professionals and visitors to CommAsia 2002 the widest array of the latest and most up-to-date technology, products and services available in the global market today.

Telecomex Asia 2002, which includes Asia Mobilecom 2002, Asia Broadcast 2002 incorporating Asia Cable and Satellite 2002 and Asia Pro-Audio 2002, Asia Networking 2002, Call Center Philippines 2002 and Comworld Philippines 2002 will not be held. According to Dilys Yong Mee Hiong, group president of HQ Link, the organizer of Telecomex Asia, this move is being made to consolidate the market and come up with a bigger and more comprehensive trade exhibition for the ICT industry.

CommAsia 2002, the 2nd International Telecommunications, Electronics, Broadcast, Information Technology and E-commerce exhibition and conference being co-organized with Petef (Philippine Electronics Telecommunications Federation) will no doubt be the most effective venue for presenting the latest products technology and services catering to the ICT market. For more information on CommAsia and how to maximize its exposure in the ICT market, call IRR Exhibitions at 887-1304 or 750-8588.

"This tie-up is another classic example on how professional competing trade show organizers are willing to make sacrifices for the benefit of the industry," Tan said. Both parties are optimistic that this development will ensure the continued growth of the Philippine ICT industry in the years to come. In 2001, CommAsia was officially opened by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who further emphasized the importance of the ICT market to the Philippine government. The show attracted 128 companies from 17 countries which included a US pavilion of 16 companies. Held during the National Electronics and Telecommunications Week (NETW), the show was attended by 8,455 government officials, trade visitors and buyers from the Philippines and the surrounding regions.

AMERICAN STANDARD LAUNCHES PRODUCTS

American Standard, one of the world's leading innovators of bathroom fixtures, recently launched several products during the 69th Annual National Convention and Building Trade Expo 2002 conducted by the Philippine Institute of Architects (PIA) at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. As one of the silver sponsors of the convention, American Standard conducted product demonstrations on the Washbrook Water-Free Urinal, the first urinal in the country that operates without water. Shown (from left) are Gina Moreno, trade officer of American Standard, Chris Santos, product manager of American Standard, Ed Terol of Falcon Waterfree Technologies, Lulu Topacio, marketing manager of American Standard, Sen, Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., Ditmar Gorges, the inventor of the Waterfree Urinal, and architects from PIA.

PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
GLOBAL POWERS OF RETAILING

RETAIL EXPERT AT PRA SEMINAR

Deloitte Consulting's retail expert David Boden speaks before retailers during the 'Global Powers of Retailing 2002: Benchmarking with the Best' seminar organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) held recently at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Also shown are Bing Limjoco, PRA chair; Samie Lim, PRA chair emeritus, and Roberto S. Claudio, PRA president.

Get on the 'Motorevolution'

MOTOROLA'S personal communications sector will revolutionize the way Filipinos use mobile phones by launching three of its latest top-of-the-line models in an all-black "Motorevolution" affair today, April 19, at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

William Tan, PCS country manager of Motorola for Singapore and Philippines, and based in Singapore, will personally grace the event. Business partners, friends and colleagues in the industry will witness the birth of an innovation together with the rest of the Motorola family.

Motorola will showcase three mobile phones that address the distinctive tastes of the market. One is for the hip crowd that boasts of a distinctive and stylish design which, too, addresses clients' demand for longer text messaging capability. Another is Motorola's sleek and smallest tri-band phone for people who are always on the go and will enable them to call anywhere in the world. Moreover, a highlight of the event is the introduction of Motorola's newest product, one that rewrites the rules of style and technology, a fashionable and uniquely sculptured "swinging blade" phone that will start the revolution.

Tan says these new Motorola models are products of its relentless search to give its clients innovative features of its mobile phones, and the best service ever.

COCOLIFE INSURES WROCK

Employees of ACWS-United Broadcasting Network Inc., popularly known as Wrock, can now enjoy the benefits of Cocolife's Employee Security Program Plus (ESP+), an insurance with a salary loan package, with the contract signing between Cocolife and ACWS. Stipulated also in the memorandum of agreement is the opportunity of employees to avail of a salary loan at a minimum P20,000 and a maximum P100,000. Present during the contract signing were (from left) Cris Ponce, Bancassurance head, Fe Alvarado, UCPB UN Avenue branch manager, Fructuoso 'Chito' Uy, ACWS VP finance and administrative manager, Nikki Ledesma, MMD marketing and franchising head, and Pete Antonio, Bancassurance supervisor.

PAGSANJAN MEDICAL CLINIC AT 25

Pagsanjan Medical Clinic in Pagsanjan, Laguna, celebrates its 25th year this month. Founder and proprietress Dr. Susie L. Unson (with eyeglasses) is shown with some of the PMC nurses and staff, sister Fe Unson Linson, Dr. Lao, Dr. Manrique, Dr. Bañares and Dr. Valero.

City Garden Manila has new executive chef

CITY GARDEN Suites Manila, located along Mabini Street in Ermita, brings its food and beverage offerings to higher standards with the recent appointment of chef Antonio Palmero. Backed with more than 30 years of experience both here and abroad, Palmero looks forward to a fruitful partnership with City Garden Suites as he has started to introduce a galore of new dishes to the hotel. His main goal is to provide deluxe quality cuisine that appeal to both the local and foreign guests at rates a lot friendlier than those of other hotels.

City Garden Suites food and beverage manager Reynaldo Manlutac admires Palmero for his prolific ideas. "He all the more proved that hotels need not hire foreign chefs to please the customers. Our local chefs can be as competitive as the foreigners."

Part of Palmero's newest food creations is the Sumptuous International Buffet which features different themes from Monday to Friday. The buffet consists of soup, colds and salads, hot items, desserts and bottomless beverage. It is offered from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. for breakfast, and from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for lunch. There is also the Ala Carte selection available everyday for a minimal package of P250 at the Café Miranda of City Garden Suites. Fast-rising favorites are the Surf and Turf which consists of jumbo prawns and tenderloin steak, Sesame-coated Chicken Tenderloin, King Fish Tanigue in sauce, and Prawns with Mango cocktail.

Find out yourself and relish Palmero's winning cuisine at Café Miranda located at the ground floor of City Garden Suites. For inquiries, call 536-1451 to 64.

UAP MEET AT MANILA MIDTOWN

The Manila Midtown Hotel is the venue of the United Architects of the Philippines' 28th national convention ongoing until April 20. The theme of this year's convention is 'Leveling the Playing Field: Searching for Strategies and Tools in Globalization.' The program was developed to address the four basic rules for winning in the arena of globalization. More importantly, it is designed for the Filipino architect in view of his identity and heritage, the current economic and political scenario, and the prevailing realities and professional practice. Shown, from left, are Camille Ocay, MMH banquet sales account manager, Trixie de Chavez, MMH banquet sales manager, architect Christopher Ong, convention director, architect Prosperidad Luis, convention president, Margie Ongshu, MMH sales director, architect Eduardo Ong and architect Godofredo Queri, Jr., convention advisers. Standing is architect Butch Santos, convention executive director.

DLSU BSC '52 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The De La Salle BSC '52 held its golden anniversary with two of its Christian brothers/teachers and accounting professor at the Red Ribbon-Jupiter recently. Those who attended were (seated, from left) Ramon Arenas, professor and Ambassador Carlos J. Valdes, Bro. Victoris Felix and Bro. Leander Fidelis, FSC, Red Ribbon founder Renato Mercado, Lou Acayan and Cezar Yatco. Shown standing (from left) were Jesus Elicano, Ramoncito Campos, Jr., Pedrito Cariquitan, Benjamin Garcia, Benjamin Uy, Victor Montenegro, Lope Belardo, Jr., Luis Jahrling, and Valentin Esteban.

Speechpower courses for teachers

SPEECHPOWER, dubbed the country's leading institution in speech communication training, announces its two-day summer speech course for grade school and high school teachers will be held at the Institute of Social Order, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City on April 19 and 20. The course, titled "Enhancing Classroom Communication Strategies" (ECCS), has been designed exclusively for teachers to help them rediscover and reignite their communication style, give them a new high in teaching, and function as a bold and commendable attempt to upgrade continuing education for educators. Interested parties can call 911-0832, 911-0833 and 911-0834.

BITS Clips

Intramuros evening with Lisa Macuja

INTRAMUROS Evenings Performing Arts Series presents "Symphony at Sayaw", a one-hour ballet concert featuring the dancers of Ballet Manila led by artistic director Lisa Macuja Elizalde on Friday, April 19, 6:30 p.m. at the Puerta Real Gardens. The repertoire includes "Classical Symphony, Swan Lake Adagio" from Act 2, "Harlequinade Pas De Deux, Le Corsaire Pas De Deux," and "Sayaw sa Pamlang" by Agnes Locsin. Intramuros Evenings is a presentation of the DOT under Sec. Richard J. Gordon, and attached agency Intramuros Administration headed by administrator Dominador Ferrer, Jr. Admission is free. For inquiries, call 527-2961 or 527-3138.

Big Horn's summer bazaar

BIG HORN, in cooperation with Pepsi, will have a Grand Summer Bazaar on April 20 and 21, from 10 a.m. onwards. It will be held at the parking grounds of Christ the King Church along Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City. The bazaar will have a wide variety of products for sale at rock bottom prices. You can find novelties, home accessories and décor, cosmetics, shoes, bags, garments, and even brand new cars. The beneficiary for this event will be the "Silbi Libis" project of the parish. For inquiries, call 438-9352.

LSAT alumni homecoming

ALL '87 high school graduates of Laguna School of Arts and Trades in Sta. Cruz, Laguna are invited to the alumni homecoming on April 20 at the LSAT grounds, from 9 a.m. onwards. For inquiries, call Nelson Vibora or Arlene Bagabagon at 0919-4578131.

Festive summer at Festival Supermall

SUMMER blazes with festive moments at Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. Kids aged 5 to 12 can get busy at Kids@Art Summer Workshops on basic drawing, painting, sculpture and crafts, which is ongoing until May 9, from 10 to 12 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For details, call 414-1954. Festival Supermall is the largest shopping, dining and entertainment complex in southern Metro Manila, with over 400 specialty stores and restaurants. Visit www.festivalsupermall.com for more updates, or call 850-3571 to 74.

Cheong Kwan Jang investors' day

INSAM Corp., the Philippines' exclusive distributor of Cheong Kwan Jang Korean Red Ginseng, will conduct a business opportunity seminar for prospective investors. It is set to accomplish its target of 100 sales outlets nationwide. The seminar will be held on Saturday, April 20 2 p.m. at Unit 401, Kassel Condominium, 2625 Taft Avenue near corner Vito Cruz Street, Manila. The seminar will focus on product knowledge and effectiveness, product line, testimonials, feasibility studies, and franchising privileges. For more details, call the Insam head office at 526-4399.

Direct selling whiz used to teach Math and sell 'tocino'

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—From an elementary school Math teacher who wanted to have an alternative source of income in 1987, Violeta Kalalo now belongs to Avon's group of millionaires who get at least P1 million in sales a month.

Kalalo says her resignation from the Batangas City East Elementary School was one of the best career moves she made.

"In the 16 years that I worked as a teacher, I could never earn in a year what I am earning now in a month," Kalalo said. "My salary then was only P200."

Pay day to pay debts

Kalalo says the combined family income was barely enough to pay the debts. Her husband was also a teacher and they had two kids to feed.

"To make both ends meet, I even sold *longganisa, tocino,* and even clothes to my friends from Batangas City and other neighboring towns. I would deliver the goods on my bicycle," Kalalo said.

She even used to go to the city's new market every Thursday, the market day, to buy clothes and textile on sale and sell them to her clients.

With the help of her father-in-law, she was able to get a motorcycle on loan from Yamaha.

"I knew I had to do something to at least put me where I want to be, where I can wear what I want to wear, look as good as I want to be, and do what I want to do," she adds.

She started in Avon, a direct selling cosmetics and lingerie company in 1975 as a certified beauty counselor, which is the lowest category in Avon at that time.

That time, she added selling cosmetics to her long list of sidelines.

"I would skip lunch and go to the Avon store here to get the products my clients have ordered," she said.

In 1986, she earned at least P4,000 through direct selling. "I had to resign from my teaching job at that time because some of my dealers would even come to my classroom and discuss the business," Kalalo said. "When I felt it was already interfering with my job, I chose the direct selling business."

Big break

"Maybe teaching wasn't really for me. My first love was business. My father used to cook and sell *chicharon,*" she recalled.

In 1987, she became one of the country's 38 franchise managers with a monthly commission of at least P120,000.

"My group alone has a minimum sale of P1 million a month. That's actually the lowest sales we had. For this month, our goal is P1.5 million. We already have P1.4 million," Kalalo said.

Aside from the big commissions she's been getting, she has already traveled to Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, and Malaysia twice for pleasure, courtesy of Avon.

In the business

But earning money from direct selling isn't all that easy. She says collection is a major problem.

"I have to admit that some franchise dealers are not good payors," Kalalo said. "There was even a time when a female doctor wasn't able to remit P20,000 in collection money. I sued her in court, and she paid, only after all the humiliation she got."

When Kalalo started, recruiting dealers was difficult but when she gave out gift packages and benefits programs, dealers came pouring in.

"Aside from inspiring people that they can be what they envision themselves to be, or that they can perform better than their expectations, I also showed them that I care for those who strive to succeed," Kalalo said.

She used to have only 20 franchise dealers in Batangas. Now, she has over 1,000, all of them meeting the total sales target for the month.

A franchise dealer gets a 30 percent commission from her total sales, but Kalalo gave more than that. "I gave them gift packages, more benefits, and inspiration. From there, I don't just help financially, I was also able to boost their confidence and encourage them to reach for their goals," she said.

Another technique she used to make her franchise dealers become more productive was the continuous training and sales updates she gives them.

"The company has regular training programs for them, but I see to it that they get more training and lectures from me. Somehow, I was able to use my skills as a former teacher in training them," she said.

Recognizing the success of her people, giving out awards to those who reached their goals also inspired the franchise dealers to succeed.

All from direct selling

"Whatever you see now, I got them all from this direct selling business," Kalalo said. "My Revo, our house in Tierra Verde, my 1,100-square-meter lot in Talumpok overlooking Batangas Bay, and the 250-square-meter lot in Alangilan, my three credit cards, and even our plans. All of them came from commissions from direct selling."

"I believe that if you do good things to people, God's graces will come to you tenfold," Kalalo said.

From a teacher whose salary was barely enough to pay debts, she has now become the sophisticated manager who wears tailored and branded clothes, can talk to anybody about anything, and content with her life.

KALALO: I would skip lunch and go to the Avon store to get the products my clients have ordered.

Hog raisers confab set

THE NATIONAL Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. (NFHFI), under the chairmanship of Nemesio G. Co, will be holding its 11th annual National Convention and Exhibit with the theme "Ginintuang Masaganang Ani sa Pagbababoyan" at the SM Megatrade Hall on May 24 and 25.

The theme "Ginintuang Masaganang Ani sa Pagbababoyan" reflects how hog farmers throughout the nation have thrown their support behind the priorities of the present administration in developing the agricultural sector in order to achieve food security, spur countryside development, as well as generate employment.

"We are happy to announce that this national convention has been blessed with the presence of the most reputable names in the hog raising industry. The overwhelming number of exhibitors and convention attendees confirms that the Philippine hog raising industry is indeed alive and oinking," says convention chair Albert Lim Jr.

Product displays

The convention will feature the latest in service and product displays from local and international manufacturers of automation equipment, veterinary products, pharmaceuticals and feeds. Another highlight of the event is a seminar series on modern swine production methods and combating the most common diseases that afflict hogs.

According to the most recent figures released by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, the per capita pork consumption in the country increased from 14 kilos in 1995 to 16 kilos in 2000.

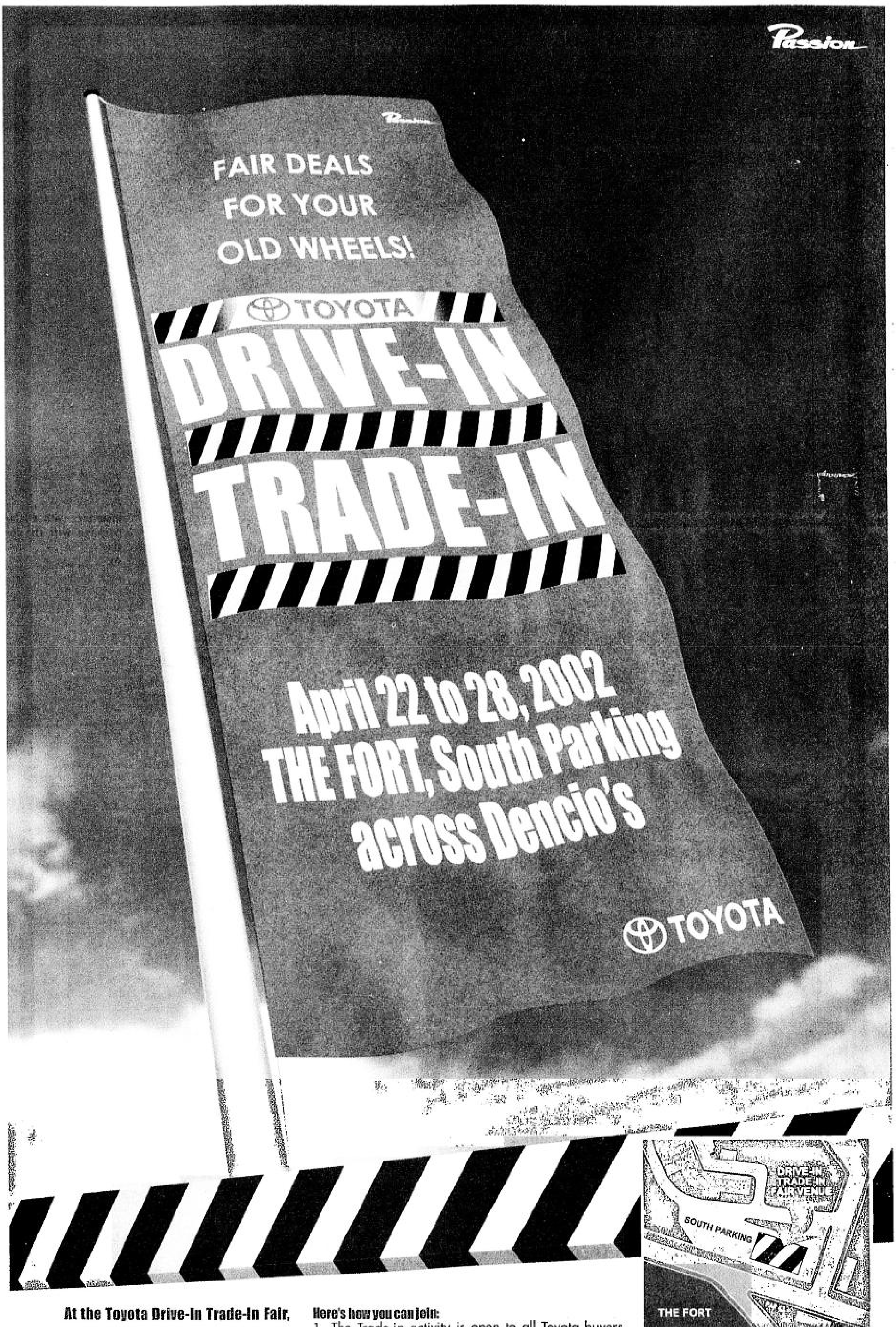
"This increase in consumption as well as government support for the livestock sector as a whole has allowed the hog industry to post a 4.4-increase in production," says Nemesio Co, national chair and chief founding father of NFHFI.

Under the leadership of Co, the NFHFI has actively lobbied in Congress and various government agencies for legislative and administrative measures targeted at protecting the sustainability and efficiency of the nationwide hog raising industry.

Opportunities

Established in 1990, the NFHFI is a non-stock and non-profit organization composed of over 2,000 hog farmers from all over the country. This federation was formed to enhance the opportunities for growth, efficiency, equity and sustainability of the hog farming industry as a whole. The hog raising industry is currently valued at P83.5 billion which represents a total consumption of 1.58 million metric tons of pork every year.

The two-day "Ginintuang Masaganang Ani sa Pagbababoyan" exhibit and seminar series is open to the general public. Interested parties may call the NFHFI convention secretariat at 7253618 or 7263644.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-0134, Series of 2002

Go into business without starting from scratch

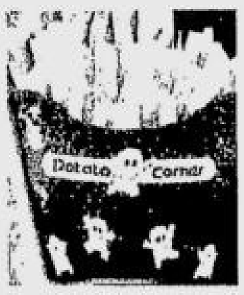
By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IF YOU have some savings and keeping it in the bank gives you very poor yields, you might consider setting up a business. But if you can't think of one and is not the type to set up something from scratch, maybe franchising is for you.

Business Friday lists some new franchise concepts you might want to look at.

Potato Corner

Potato Corner was put up in 1992 by a group of young men. Since then it has become the leader in flavored French fries with over 52 outlets all over the Philippines.



Aside from flavored French fries, it has diversified into baked potatoes and hash browns.

A typical cart or kiosk costs P150,000 which includes the cart, equipment, signages, franchise fee and small wares.

As a partner, Potato Corner will check and evaluate the proposed site and advise the franchisee on the viability of a potato Corner in the proposed location.

After evaluating the site and jointly agreeing to go ahead, Potato Corner will handle the construction, design and setup of the outlet.

All the prospective franchisee will do after paying the franchise package fee is to go through the training program with the crew.

Ideal locations include malls, supermarkets, commercial centers, bus terminals, airports, office buildings, schools and other high foot traffic areas.

Interested parties can contact Cinco Holdings Corp. at 534-5846 or 45.

Padi's Point

Everyone with a night life knows about Padi's Point and it offers entrepreneurs a complete *barkada* entertainment concept.

A Padi's Point franchise goes for a minimum of P500,000. This does not include however the construction of the place.

Franchisees would be provided an operations manual developed by Francorp Franchise Consultants, an aggressive advertising and promotions program.

You can start a business for as low as ₱150T to as high as a few millions

Padi's will also undertake training for the franchisee and the staff to ensure a quick return on the investment. It says that its most successful franchisee got back his investment in less than a year.

The Padi's group also offers a network gaming concept for only P100,000 and 2-percent royalty in exchange for PC platform games, operations support and marketing support.

For more inquiries, call Padi's Philippines Inc. at 727-5143 or 724-3489.

Bread Connection

If you are a real estate developer, mall tenant, canteen operator or a regular entrepreneur, then getting a Bread Connection franchise may be for you.

Bread Connection was founded in 1983 by the husband and wife team of Angelito and Annie Trias. The first outlet was opened at the first floor of Virra Mall in the Greenhills Shopping Center.

From there the network has grown to 17 outlets, and expansion is underway through franchising.

The strength of Bread Connection lies in its quality and taste. Almost all products sold in the outlets are produced in its commissary.

The interested entrepreneur will shell out P300,000 for the franchise fee plus 3 percent of the gross sales a month in royalties. The franchise fee includes technical support, training and the feasibility study to make sure that the outlet is a viable site for the franchise.

The franchisee, on the other hand, will shoulder the cost of construction, equipment and inventory.

Interested persons can call 687-0297 to 99

Coffee Experience

Coffee Experience started in the early 1990s with nothing more than an innovative spirit and unique concept. The result was a successful espresso bar business.

It has put up 19 stores before embarking on franchising for future expansion. Coffee Experience has signed up one franchise application and is now looking for committed entrepreneurs to join the team.

Franchise fee is P300,000 which covers the training and advertising costs plus the right to use the name. The franchise fee goes up to between P1.3 million and P1.8 million to include all the machines and a one-month inventory for an 8-square-meter location.

Coffee Experience says its business is a good one to get into these days with coffee increasingly becoming the alternative beverage of the young and even old generations.

Entrepreneurs who want to get a franchise should submit a letter of intent stating the desire to obtain the franchise. It should include relevant information on lease terms of the proposed site as well as the description of the site's immediate environment in terms of traffic and competitors.

For questions, please call 631-7599 or 631-7397

Everything 100

Business continues even in these difficult times. The secret is in the concept and Everything 100 of the Manel's group of companies believes that it has a winning concept by catering to the demand for affordable items.

Everything 100 rides on the belief that the shopping paradigm has shifted, such that buying low priced items does not make a shopper cheap, only sensible.

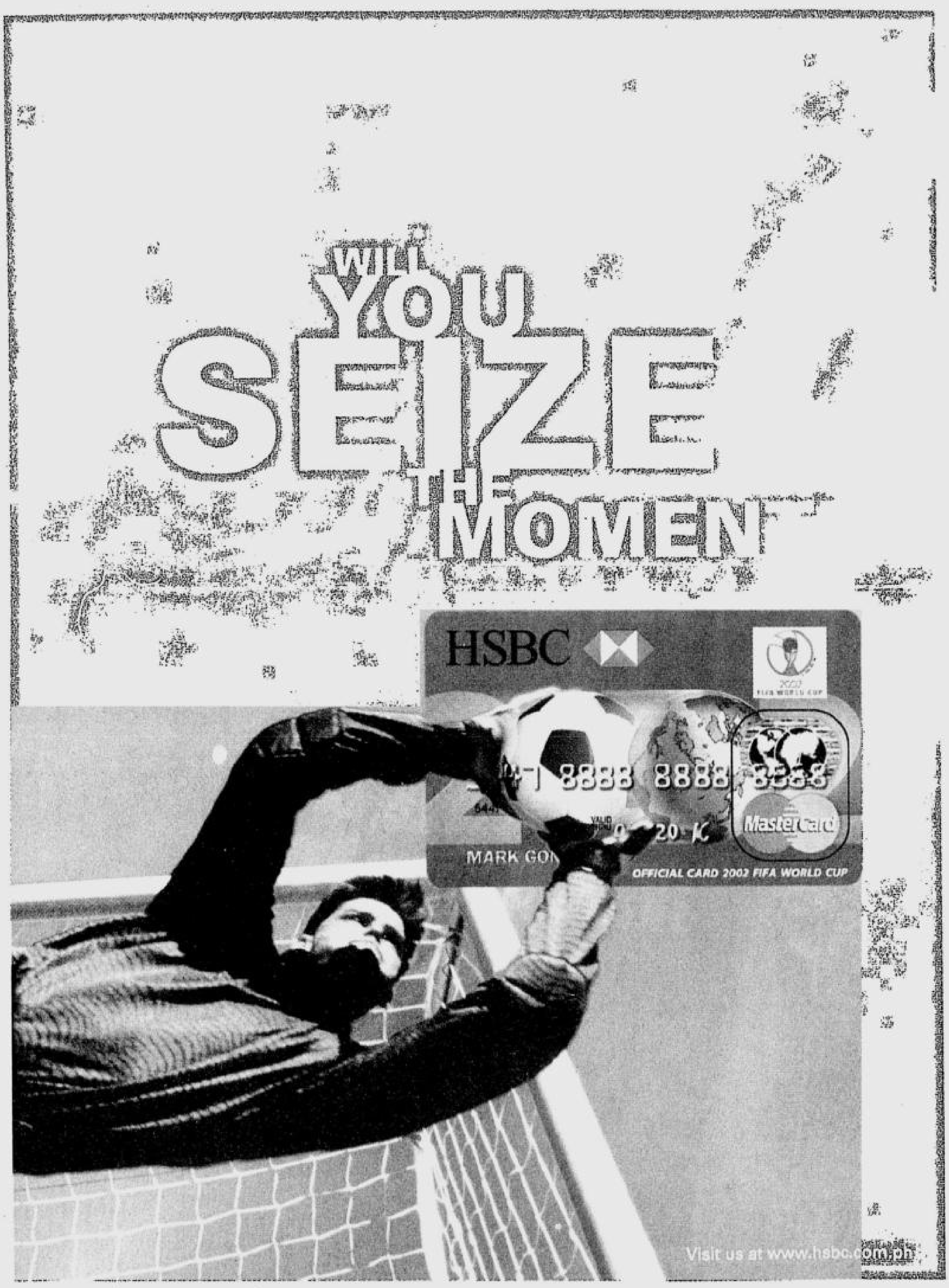
The products it sells for P100 each include apparel for all occasions, footwear, accessories, bags, novelties and gift items, towels and linens, pillows, toys and cosmetics.

The investment runs to P1.5 million for a 50-square-meter location which covers everything from store construction to the training, and inventory worth P500,000. There are no royalty fees.

The investment also includes the fixtures, insurance, permits and licenses, marketing and advertising, comprehensive operations manual, regular onsite visits and assistance in operations.

The entrepreneur is expected to get back his investment in two years.

For inquiries, please call 303-5648, 524-2086 or 522-1241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3-DAY SALE
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SM City
MANILA

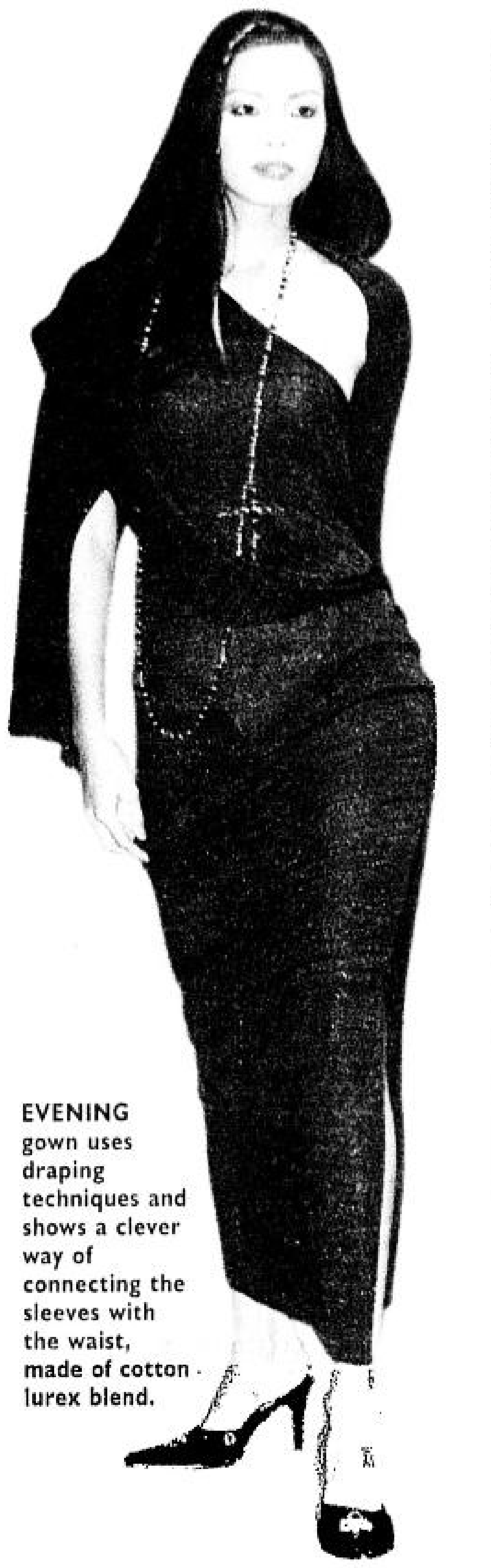
Lulu Tan-Gan shows what fashion collection should be

LIFE-STYLED

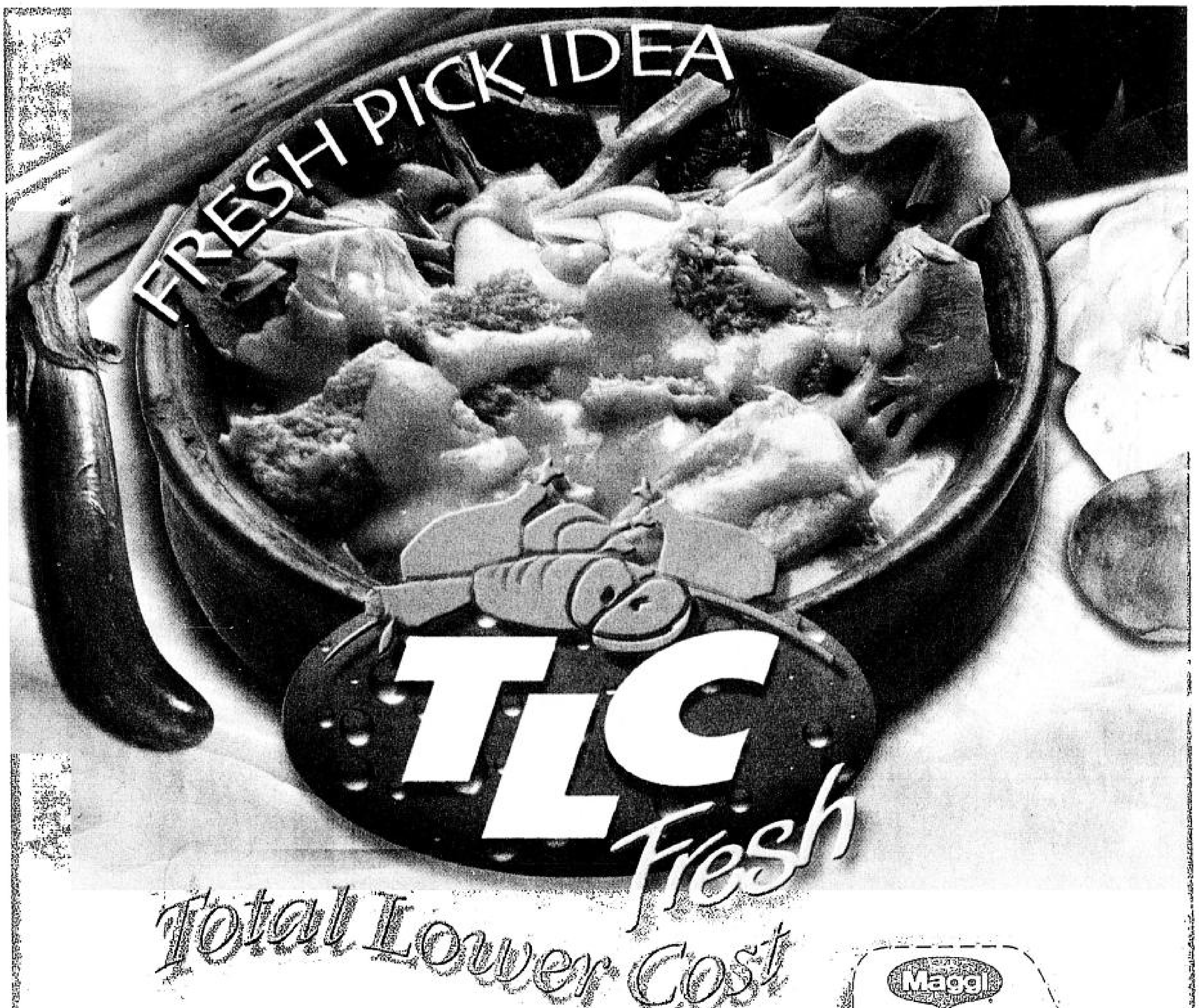
Thelma Sioson San Juan

ONCE in a rare while in Metro Manila you see a fashion collection that is style-forward, clearly focused, tightly edited and cleanly constructed. That was what we saw last Sunday in **Lulu Tan-Gan**'s fashion show—all the elements of a well-conceived and well-executed collection that could come only from a fashion veteran. It's an adept hand we don't get

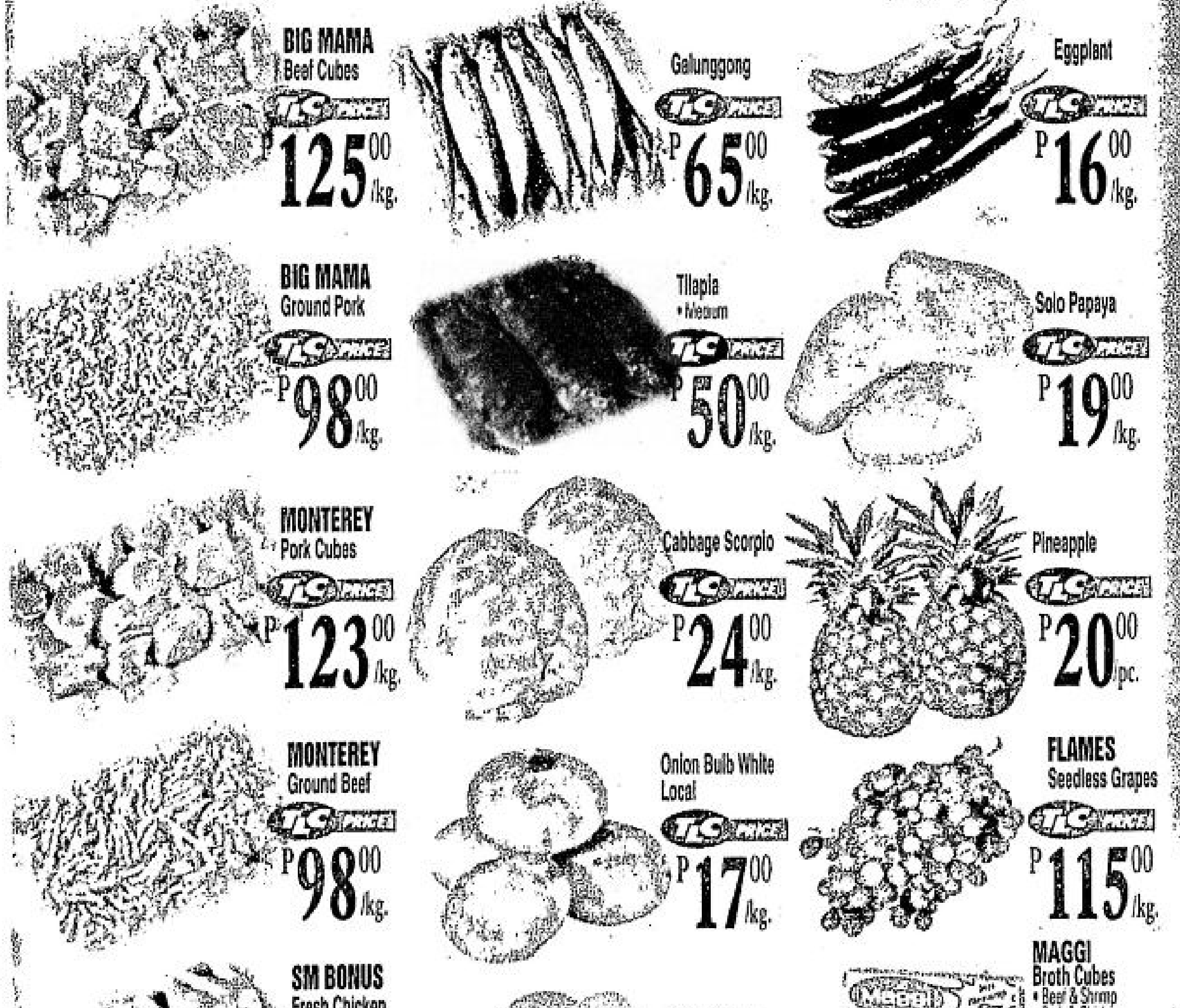
LULU p.D2



EVENING gown uses draping techniques and shows a clever way of connecting the sleeves with the waist, made of cotton lurex blend.



Total Lower Cost



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MAGGI Broth Cubes • Beef & Shrimp • Pork & Chicken 66 g TLC PRICE P39.50/ea.

Maggi
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Ingredients:

1/4 cup	atsuete seeds soaked in 1/3 cup hot water
3 tbsps.	cooking oil
2 tbsps.	minced garlic
3/4 cup	sliced onions
1	MAGGI Beef Broth Cube
1/2 kg.	beef cubes
2 cups	sliced eggplant
2 cups	sliced banana heart, butuan varietry
2 cups	water
1/3 cup	peanut butter
2 cups	sitaw, cut 2-3 inches long

Procedure:

Simmer beef in low fire until tender. Drain. Set beef aside. Soak atsuete seeds in hot water to steep. Drain. Set aside extract. Heat oil and sauté garlic, onions and MAGGI CUBES. Add in tenderized beef. Add eggplant and banana heart, strir-fry for two minutes. Pour in water and atsuete extract. Bring to simmer until vegetables are tender. Stir in peanut butter and blend well. Add sitaw and simmer for two to three minutes until sitaw are cooked but still crisp. Serves six to eight.

Preparation Time: 15 minutes
Cooking Time: 15 minutes

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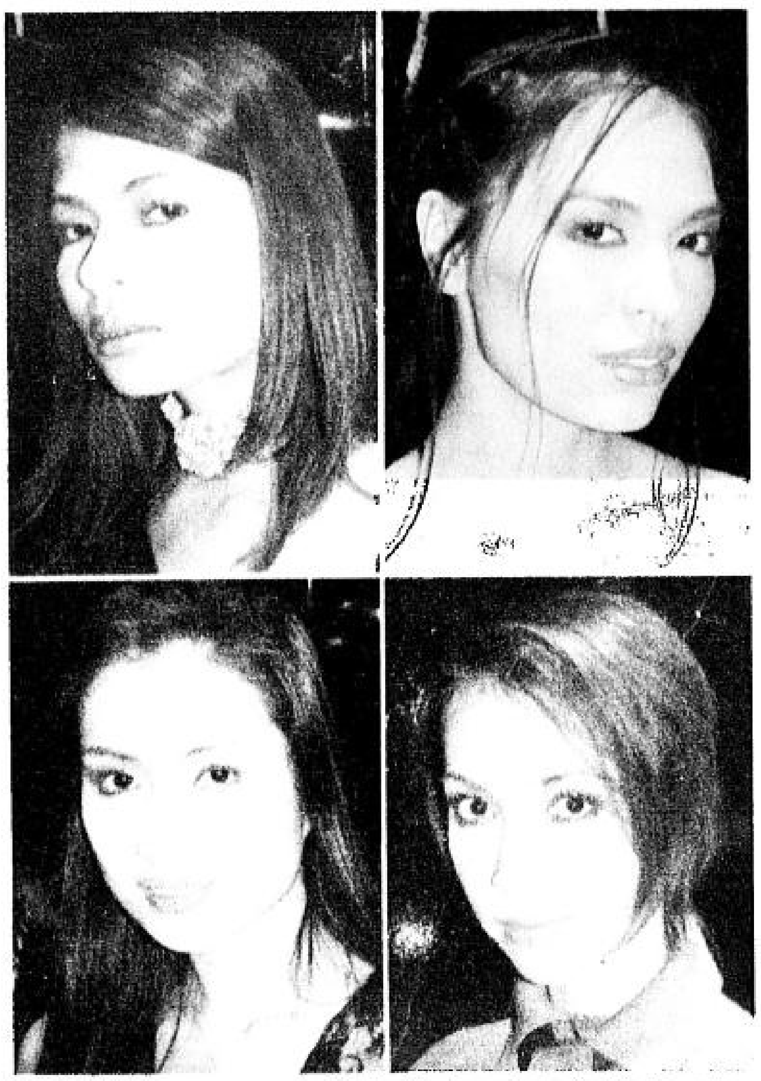


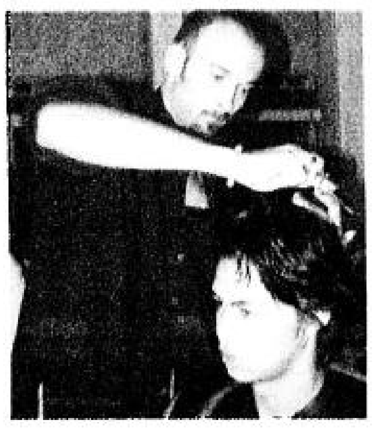
DARK shadow was swept softly to the browbone to lift the eyes. The lower rims were emphasized for a dramatic effect. Blusher was subtly applied below the cheekbone.

Get the summer look

Photos by Chito Vecina

LULU Tan-Gan's show was a collaboration between hair and makeup artists. Eric Faury trimmed the models' locks to give their hairstyles more body. Patrick Rosas used Shiseido's makeup to create looks for daytime and evening. The faces were generally glowing with dark eyes balanced by rosy lips.

WISPY layered cut by Eric Faury



FAURY giving the male model some precision cutting.

Lulu Tan-Gan shows what fashion collection should be

From page D1

to see often now, not on the local scene that's been more used to the razzle-dazzle and fluff of fashion design, rather than substance and mastery of technique and construction.

First and foremost we hope that Lulu's show at Mandarin Oriental, through its clear fashion statement, helped educate its audience on what a collection should be: definitive about everything from silhouette, fabric and color to details and ornamentation. In short, she defined what to her are the trends for 2002.

Blouson tops

For more than two decades now, Lulu has used knits, hardly anything else. It's amazing how through sheer mastery of this material and versatility of design and function, she's shown there is no need—for her, at least—to tap any other materials. In that span of time, she not only blazed the trail in ready-to-wear knit, she's also displayed tremendous staying power. She created her niche in fashion design and retail long before the concept of niche branding came into play.

And her feat is not limited to marketing or packaging. In fact, she's worked the backroom in a way only a few designers do. She starts not with design or the sketchpad, but in the weave and blend of fabrics—at the very basic essential of manufacturing. She creates her own knits—their weave, blend, color and finish—to serve her design, details and the accessorizing she wants.

This was apparent in last Sunday's highly focused collection. In separates, she showed these trends: stylized jodhpur pants, bell-bottoms, indigo jeans, tubes; tops that were blousy, asymmetric, loose at the hips, or just chemise; skirts that were pleated, asymmetric, A-line, or mini with flounces; coats that were A-capes, or tubular and long; some ponchos.

Her openers were strong whites, and black-and-white—kimono-inspired with obi or hip wraps made of denim, leather or knits. In these, she played with lengths—long and short. They were blousons and flattering on the hipline—great news for women with imperfect figures, who've come to dread body-hugging knits. Now we can slip into those knits—and not stifle our breathing.

From these basic non-colors, the collection graduated to colors—a graduation so evidently calculated. She went into Prussian blue for corporate wear of pleated, knee-length skirt and blouson with fragmented bow as accent. The fragmented bow was a prevalent accent in the collection. She capitalized on the blues in the casual wear, using Fino ribbons or tapes as ornamentation—a device that created the handcrafted effect so in vogue now. The ribbons and tapes on the blouses and bottoms provided the graphic lines.

From there she went to more drapes and asymmetric lines, in hues of orange and other spicy colors.

Ethnic inspiration

Her evenings had "gathered" silhouettes with ample flounces—in hot pinks and gradations of fuchsia—some in good volume, others in near-tight fit. She stressed the capes and the ponchos, sometimes putting this long flowing garbs over hot pants or minis.

The collection was a triumph of the art of mix-and-match. It also presented the material in designs and treatment that were not traditionally knit. She achieved this by creating a whole range of blends—cotton, cotton acrylic, cotton acetate, chenille and lurex.

The lurex blends provided the sheer effect and the luster. In this way did she create a variety of textures.

Lulu always succeeds in pushing the limits of knitwear—not only through innovative silhouettes but also through the adventurous play of color, texture, accents or ornamentation (e.g. ribbons) and accessorizing.

And always, she shows a confident hand—the mark of a seasoned designer who knows in what fashion direction to bring her clientele.

Crowd

The show was also notable for its choice of venue. For the first time, Mandarin's Clipper Lounge on the mezzanine and the Captain's Bar on the ground floor were used as a single venue for a fashion show—a source of pride for Mandarin's director of communications **Charisse Chuidian**. Director **Ariel Lozada**, as usual, was bold enough to make that attempt—he made the models parade on both floors, so that the audience didn't miss anything. His direction was snappy, fun, as interesting as the clothes.

Proof of Lulu's stature in the fashion industry was the lifestyle-power crowd turnout on a Sunday. Her colleagues were there in considerable force, from **Pitoy Moreno**, **Ben Farrales**, **Inno Sotto**, **Mike de la Rosa**, **Tonichi Nocum**, **Cesar Gaupo** who flew in from HK, **Efren Ocampo** to **Jojie Lloren**.

Josie Natori went to the show straight from the airport, flying in from Paris where she worked on her latest bag collection—the day bag (good leather) to complement the finely handcrafted evening bags, which she told us were moving well. It was the first time in years Josie watched a local fashion show and she was so impressed with Lulu's collection. Lulu and Josie are the force behind the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines.

One thing admirable about Lulu is that she's gone beyond her career to work for the fashion industry. She's active in the development not only of fashion design but also of young Filipino designers through the Young Designers' Competition, the winners of which had won many times in Paris. Like a compleat woman, she knows how to give back to society.

In these many ways Lulu Tan-Gan is not only a seasoned designer, she's also a cut above the rest.

More news

In the show, we ran into **Don Escudero**, who's taking a break from the movies, to do home design and retail. With some friends, Don is opening a home store, which will include some Plexiglas lamps and fixtures that Don himself designed.

There was also Fila's **Cris Albert** who broke the news that Fila is working to bring **Michael Schumacher** to the country in December, for its shoe line.

Another good news is Cesar Gaupo, who's doing great at Shanghai Tang, is presenting the Shanghai Tang couture collection here in December, after HK and London.

Still on fashion, I never thought I'd be talking about that with **Dong Puno**, but I did, albeit briefly, when he called the other day to give me the news that his daughter-in-law **Anna** has opened a fashion store at Crossings at Shangri-La Plaza. It's for pregnant women and has styles meant to enhance how you look when you're on the family way. The store is Procreation.

Aside from Lulu's fashion event, another occasion that drew the A-list crowd was **Bencab's** exhibit at Luz Gallery, which opened last week. One look at the turnout and you'd realize how big—and wide—Bencab's clientele is—from **Manolo Lopez** and his wife **Marites**, who have collected Bencabs for decades now, **Fernando** and **Kit Zobel**, **Choy Cojuangco**, to artist friends **Neal Oshima**, who's doing a book on squatter architecture, **Wig Tysman** who was busy paparazzi-ing away that night. It was April 10, when Bencab turned 60. His longtime friend **Annie Sarthou** of Luz Gallery helped Bencab attend to the guests.

It was so apt that his exhibit was called "Homage to Sabel," **Sabel** being the bedraggled woman Bencab sighted in his younger days in Bambang, which inspired a generation of his works. The works, which numbered more than 30, were sold out before the exhibit could open.

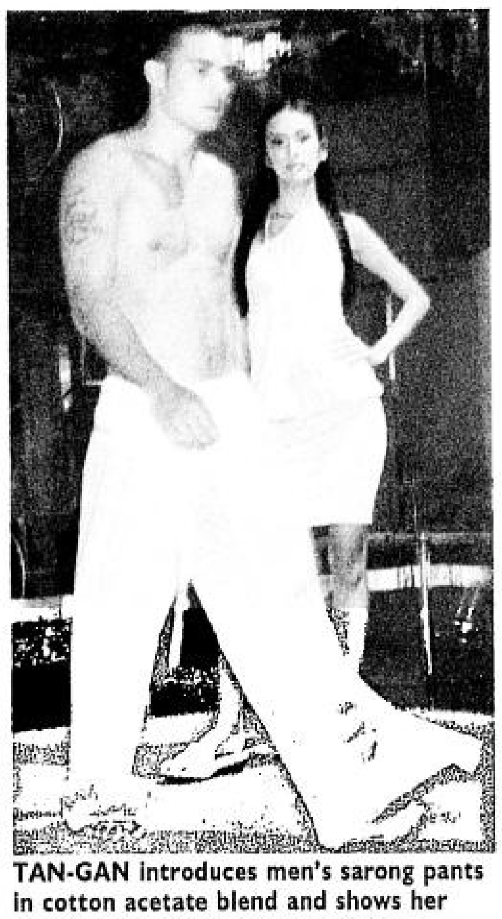
When I told him about the brisk sales, Bencab, with deadpan expression, said that was really no big deal. "**Malang** would have more than 70 works and they'd sell out right away." He was right.

AFTER-SIX DRESSING. Tubular dress with Fino tape inserts and ribbed hem is made of pure cotton yarn.

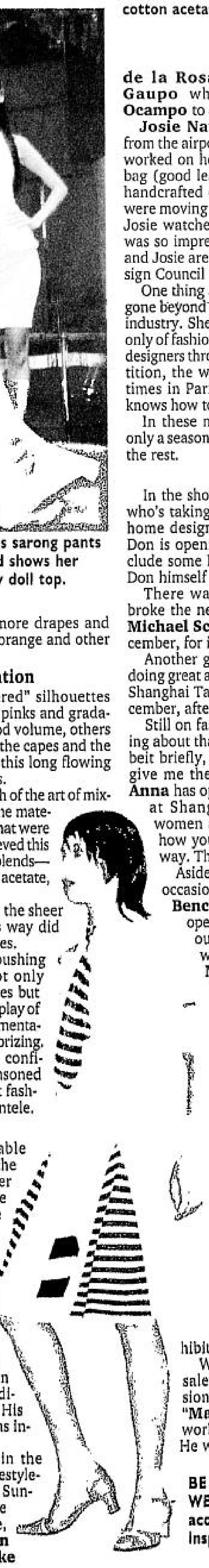
LOUNGE WEAR. Asymmetric top and gartered shorts, both made of cotton acetate yarn, are belted with a deconstructed denim obi.

ETHNIC INSPIRATION. Dolman-sleeved top with a ribbed waist, made of cotton yarn and tulle inserts goes with the jodhpur pants in cotton acetate yarn.

OUTFIT inspired by the ao dai, traditional Vietnamese costume, draped tube blouse with long slitted skirt exposing the pants. It is accessorized with a patchwork body belt.



TAN-GAN introduces men's sarong pants in cotton acetate blend and shows her classic A-line mini and baby doll top.



BE ADVENTUROUS IN OFFICE WEAR. This off-white outfit is accented with bold stripes. Prada-inspired shoes by Figlia and Celine

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

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THE JIGSAW Shop is a haven for puzzlers. PHOTO: BOBOT MERU

Puzzling shop

By Nikki M. Meru
Contributor

JUST how puzzling can it get to piece together a jigsaw shop that will stand out from the rest? Very puzzling. But believe it or not, The Jigsaw Shop owners Servi Suarez and wife Trixie See Suarez got away with it.

Though the concept of a shop selling nothing but jigsaw puzzles may raise eyebrows, the couple managed to put up their own jigsaw shop on the 3/F of The Podium on ADB Avenue in Ortigas Center, Pasig.

But why a jigsaw shop? Trixie believes that the Philippines is now hungry for another craze after cross-stitch. And puzzles are the answer.

"This is a hobby that transcends age and gender," says Trixie, who is an avid "jigger" herself since childhood. Now 29, she recalls how she used to spend her summers assembling

PUZZLING/ p.D7

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3. Upon submission of your "dressed-up" fish, along with your joining form and receipt of purchase, you instantly get an SM Gift Cheque worth P300.00. You may submit as many fish entries as you want and get same GC amount per entry.
4. All entries shall be displayed in the mall's atrium area for public viewing up to the final judging set on May 28-29, 2002. Entries shall be judged on per mall basis anytime within the specified judging period.
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6. Winners will receive a Banco De Oro Cash Card Worth P10,000. There will be a total of 12 winners for all malls. Judges' decision is final.
7. Winners will be notified via phone or registered mail beginning May 31, 2002. Prizes can be claimed from the Marketing Officer of the Mall Admin. Office of the particular SM Mall branch they won. Winners must bring copy of joining form, any major ID and receipt of purchase. (Unclaimed prizes within 30 days upon receipt or notification will be forfeited).
8. Participants can claim winning or non-winning entries beginning May 31, 2002 at the Mall Admin. Office (thru the Marketing Officer). Participants must present the copy of their joining form and any ID for proper identification. SM Supermalls has the right to dispose unclaimed entries after June 7, 2002.
9. Employees of the Shopping Center Management Corporation (SCMC) are not allowed to join the contest.
10. Promo starts **April 19, 2002 and ends on May 19, 2002. Deadline for submission of entries is until May 26, 2002** (mall hours only).

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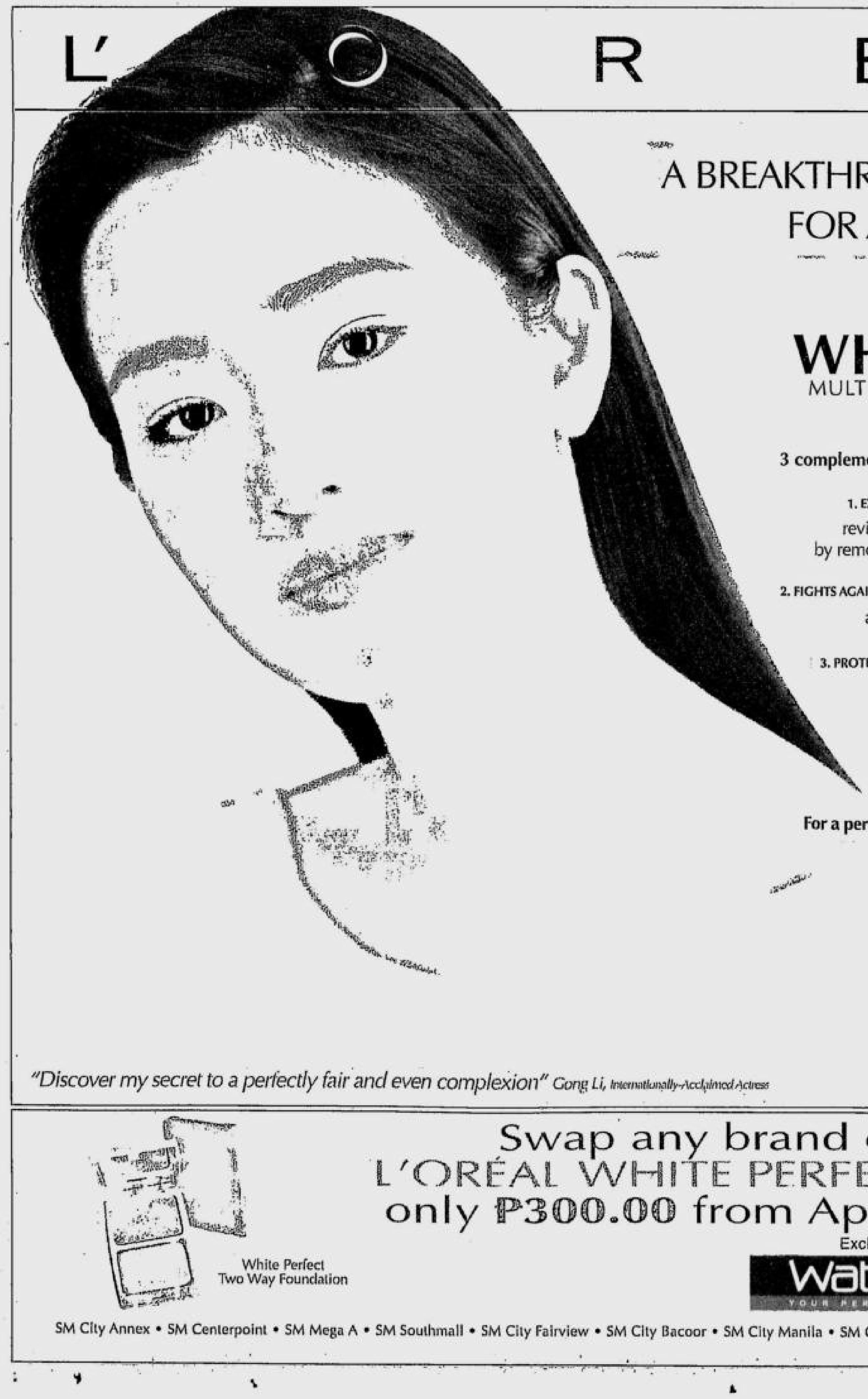

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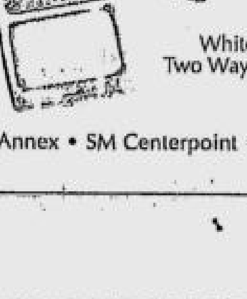

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Doing it the Kadus way

PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO
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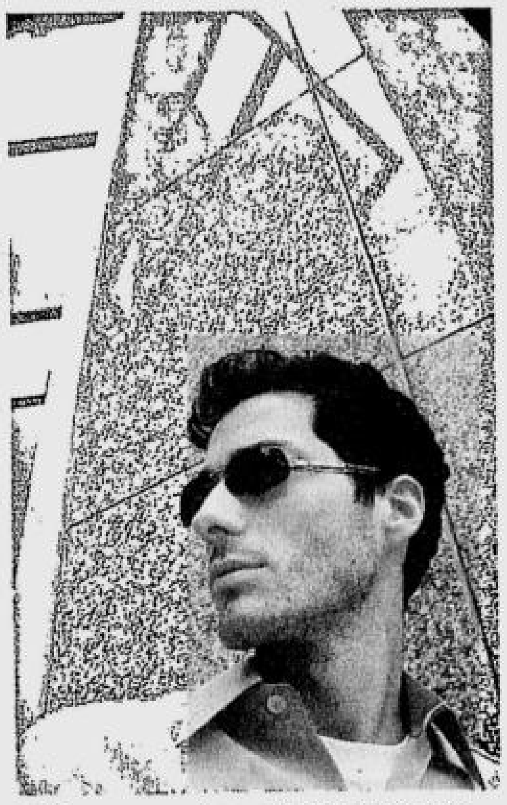

MEN can never have a bad hair day with various styling products.

By Marie Calica
Contributor

The German hair cosmetics brand is now in the Philippines. Brace for a hair-raising experience

"KADUS... my way!" almost sounds like a tag line to a Japanese stereo brand, but it's not. Women who have their hair colored at top salons know (and swear by) Kadus—the German brand of hair cosmetics used to color, treat and care for their hair.

Although not yet a Philippine household name (it was launched only last December), Kadus is found in more than 60 countries worldwide. The manufacturer of top-quality German-made products was founded in 1919 by a hairdresser named Ludwig Kegel and is based in Lenzkirch in the Black Forest of Germany.

You won't find Kadus products next to other mainstream hair-care brands in department store shelves. Instead, they are sold exclusively at partner salons—a tradition the company is known for. For them, it's more than making a sale—it's giving the client quality hair treatment. "We want the products to work for you. That's why we leave the delicate process of coloring and treating the hair to the experts. This ensures the best look and results possible," says Kadus sales and marketing director Chikki Manahan.

By experts, Manahan is referring to salons like Salon de Manila, Franck Provost, Salon de Orient and Head Zone, who use Kadus to color and treat their clientele's crowning glory. She also explains that the hair color process never ends at the hairdresser's chair. A typical salon will send you home from their color treatment only for you to experience your hair drying or lightening at least two days later. But Kadus partners don't have a problem with the nondrying treatments of the company (even pregnant women can have their hair colored because Kadus doesn't contain harmful chemicals like peroxide and ammonia). And they never let a customer go home without recommending the proper follow-on treatment to prevent hair from damage—pretty much like a beauty prescription. Of course, clients are not forced to buy the products, but at least they know the choices available to them.

Salons who partner up with Kadus exclusively not only have the assurance of using quality hair-care products. They also get support from the German company through regular hands-on training sessions for cutting, coloring and perming techniques from training manager Robbie Piñera. Each meeting with Piñera is a chance for salon partners to learn concepts, advice, products, trends and even trouble shoot on everything about "Kadus... my way!"

Training given by the company is top-notch. To prove it, Kadus' top stylist and trainer Anna Michajlova established a hair-raising record: the creation of 315 hairstyles in just 12 hours. She pulled off the simplest haircuts in only 30 seconds and performed more complicated hair styling in a surprising three minutes! The record has been submitted for an entry in the "Guinness Book of Records."

Although the products that Kadus recommends after treatment are top-notch, Manahan is straightforward to say that the company does not promise miracles in a shampoo bottle. "Our products will assure you of results that will *prevent* the damage and take care of minor problems. But if we see that you need more help for major conditions like your scalp, we'll personally recommend you to see a dermatologist instead," she says.

Think you've got a hair problem? There's a Kadus product to nip that in the bud!

Dandruff—Dry, rough particles of the skin due to serious failure in the function of oil-producing glands. (Imunal Deep Remove Cream, Deep Remove Shampoo, Deep Remove Tonic)

Greasy scalp—An overproduction of sebum produced so that your hair becomes greasy and weighed down. (Imunal Sebum Mask, Sebum Shampoo, Sebum Tonic)

Sensitive scalp—Breakouts caused by mechanical, environmental or nutritional factors. (Imunal Sensitive Shampoo, Sensitive Tonic)

Hair loss—Insufficient nourishment to the hair roots caused by poor circulation. (Imunal Active Gel, Active Shampoo, Active Tonic)

Dry/Porous hair—Hair splits due to lack of elasticity caused by mechanical and environmental factors. (Imunal Revital Shampoo, Revital Balancer, Revital Mousse, Revital Mask)

Permed hair—Uneven, dry-looking strands due to strain on the hair. (Imunal Perm Care Shampoo, Perm Care Treatment)

Colored hair—Dry, porous hair that is difficult to comb due to coloring treatments. (Imunal Color Care Shampoo, Color Care Treatment)

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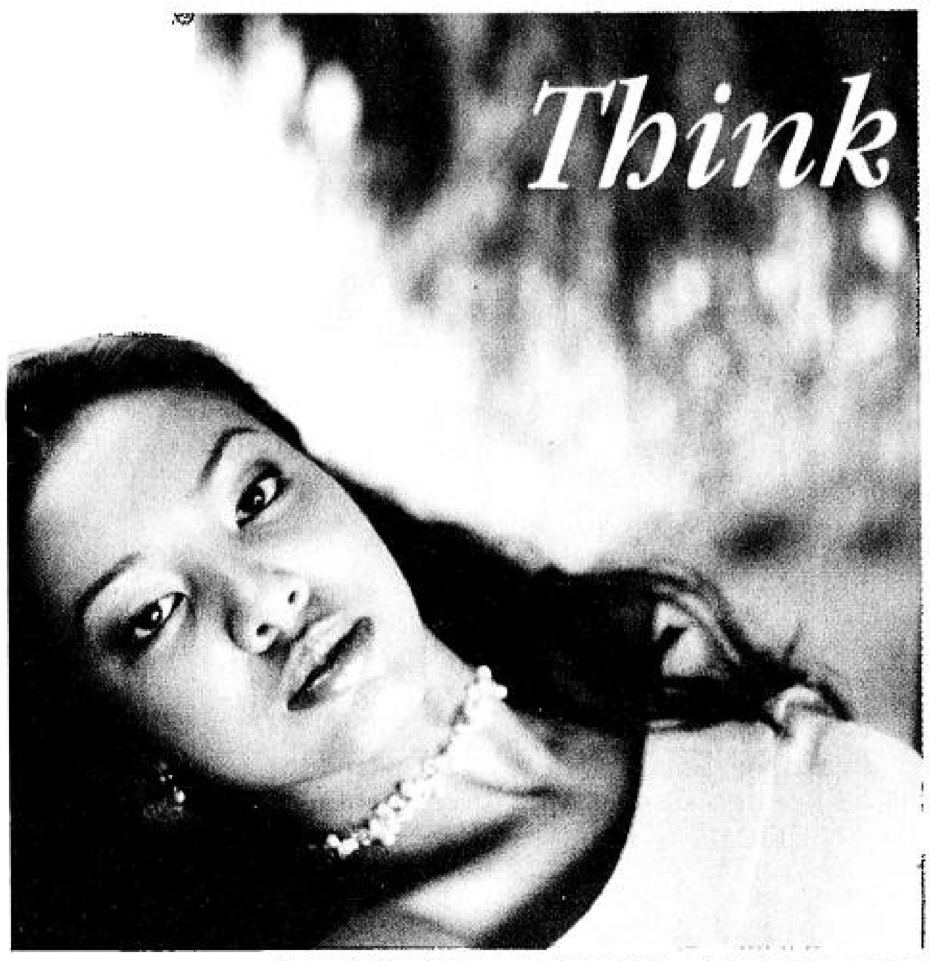


PHOTO: **JOHN MOSSIGE, CAL CARRIES INT'L** • MODEL: **KUKU TRINIDAD** • HAIR AND MAKEUP: **TOTO BAGAMASBAD**

AS fashion waxes romantic, Estée Lauder reflects this spirit in its Extremely Spring 2002 makeup collection.

Watered mauves and pinks and neutral skin tones are accented by bold splashes of red, creating a visual delight.

Pink is the color of the season available in Floating Color for Lips and Cheeks, in limited edition, Clear Pink Gloss and Shimmer Pink, and the translucent Good Red that give the cheeks and reddish pink glow. To match these colors is the Floating Color All-Face and Body Powder, a sheer pink pressed powder that can give both the face and body a rosy pink glow. Complementing these are pink and neutral lips in the new classic Pure Color Crystal, and the Re-Nutriv All-Day Lipstick as well as nails in Rosy Pink, Pink clouds and White Petal for Pure Color Nail Lacquer.

The rosy glow is enhanced by two eye compacts in lavender and neutral shades. The limited Floating Color for Eyes in Energy (lavender) and Light (neutral) offset the pink elements of the cheeks and skin for a playful and visual finish.

Available at Rustan's.

Makeup à la aurora borealis

NORTHERN lights, another name for the aurora borealis, is a celestial phenomenon that occurs around the north and south poles of the earth. The aurora is higher in the atmosphere than the highest jet plane.

It occurs because the earth's magnetic field interacts with the solar wind, a tenuous mix of charged particles blowing away from the sun. This wind from the sun sweeps by the earth in the interplanetary magnetic field, which is produced by the sun. Aurora light comes from the air glowing as charged particles rain down along the earth's magnetic field lines. The atmosphere gas glows with a certain color depending on its electrical state and on the energy of the particle that hits the atmosphere gas—from yellow green to blue light to purplish red.

Auroral displays vary. It can be a diffuse patch of flowing sky, followed by an arc that brightens or arcs in upward-reaching striations giving the impression of curtains of light.

Northern lights is the inspiration of The Body Shop's summer forecast, Illuminating Sky Dancing Colors. The collection comes in rich formulations in soft, misty shades.

Why this theme? Perhaps it aims to remind consumers, stressed out by the pressures of city living, that makeup can create a private sanctuary and offers simplicity and sensual fulfillment.

The eye shadows come in hazy half tones, reminiscent of the twilit sky. They come with a new moisturizing powder formulation that makes the texture smooth. The warm palette consists of taupe and fawn while the cool palette consists of pink and lilac, both in matte and satin pearl textures.

Balance the eyes with stain lips and iridescent lip gloss, in mauve, pink and cherry. They have a satin pearl finish and are coated with olive oil to keep the lips from drying.

The Satin Highlighter replaces the barely made-up face. The formula comes in a satin peach hue with iridescent gold particles, adding a velvety polish to the brow, cheekbones, décolletage and shoulders. It can be worn alone or with foundation with added benefits of Vitamin E, acetate and glycerin to keep the skin smooth.

PHOTO: PATRICK UY
MAKEUP: MARIE CALICAFOR
THE BODY SHOP
MODEL: KATHERINE SANCHEZ

Colors at the end of the rainbow

OZ is a fantasy and surreal world where rainbows come alive and constantly shift from shade to shade. Fred Farrugia, Lancôme's creative makeup artist, picks the vivid colors of this imaginary world and translates them into his summer palette. Think green eye shadow glistening into yellow, turquoise slipping into silver, orange hinting at fuchsia and violet transforming into blue. Lips look like fresh fruits while the skin glides through a whirlwind of stars that leaves the skin smelling of apricot.

Touché Liberté liquid foundation introduces a new shade: Rainbow Star with sheen and a pink-hued mantilla of pearlescent sparklers. This foundation is dabbed onto the cheekbones with its foam applicator.

For the eyes, Color Focus is a mono-finesse eye shadow that glides on transparent and exceptional softness. Coat the Technicolor eyes with Amplicils mascara in dramatic black. This full-volume mascara contains a patented formula called Ampliflex technology. Jojoba waxes and rice thicken the lashes while beeswax adds softness to the lashes. The coating action of carnauba and candellila plant waxes and the effect of film-forming polymers facilitate the easy curling and separation of lashes. Your lashes will fan out and you won't get stiff papery lashes. The mascara brush bristles are arranged in exactly the opposite direction to the eyelashes. From the first contact with the brush, lashes naturally separate. The concave and convex factions of the brush maximize the curl imprinted on the lashes.

Lipsticks come in fruit-colored tubes such as orange, raspberry and orange. Apply on the lips and see specks of gold. The Brilliant Magnetic is a featherweight, soothing lip shine in ruby, violet and fuchsia. Lip Dimension is a long-wearing lipgloss that restructures the lips with sensuous curves. Set off with sparkles, the shine's texture glistens on the lips.

If you've got a fading tan, Blush Focus is a sheer cheek color that revives it or gives the hint that you've been out in the sun. This oil-free cream powder blush gives a real touch of transparent complexion. The best part is that it lasts all day.

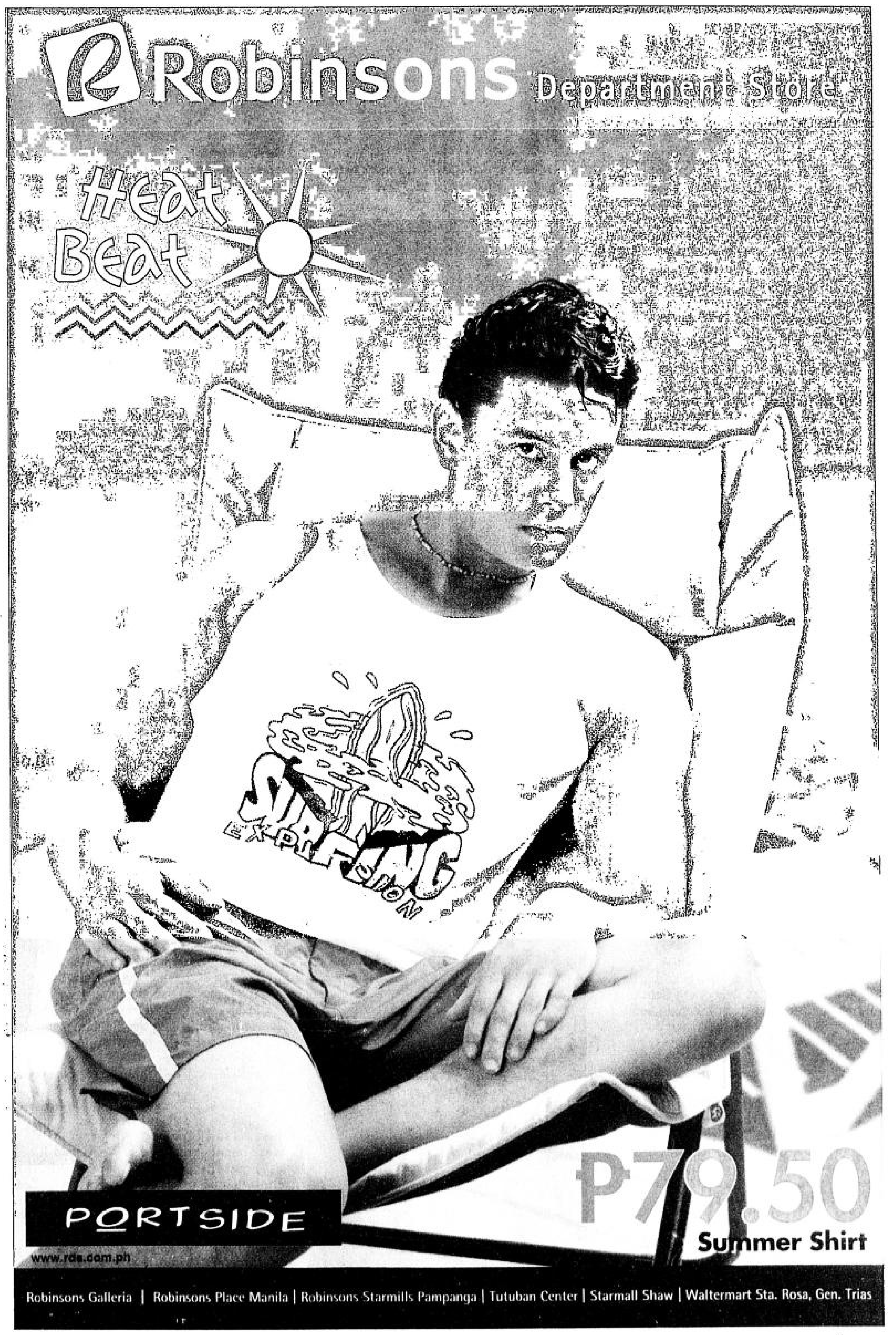
The formula is topped with a non-greasy but pure oil that helps prevent drying. It is combined with comfort oils for blending and oil of shea butter for nutrients. It is balanced with lamellae powders with ultra-fine particles for extremely light and soft homogenous film. The soft spherical powders give a transparent natural finish while the micro-bubbles of ultra light powder give the blusher an airy feel.

Microcrystalline and natural waxes, which stabilize and cloak color pigments, give long-lasting wear. To brighten the shades, Blush Focus contains powerful pigments and a pearl to enhance each shade.

Apply small, circular movements on the apple of your cheeks. You can also use Blush Focus on the lips to enhance a gloss or to give the mouth a soft, natural look and on the eyelids to evoke a veil of pure silk.

Top off the look with Tourbillon d'etoiles, a glittering gel for the face and body that wraps your body in a luscious sensation, and leaves the skin wrapped in a halo of light.

PHOTOS:
WAHOO GUERRERO
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
MARISSA DE LOS REYES FOR LANCOME
MODEL:
EAZEL DON



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NEW consumers: Jag Kids Mod Squad in sports shirts, vest, cargo shorts and jeans

L'OREAL'S New Generation and Avant-Garde Collection

Fashion Week reaps fruits of toil and sacrifice

By Marge C. Enriquez

ESAC Philippine Fashion Week 2002 is serious business. Among the highlights of the event was the first-time participation of a major retailer, the introduction of children's wear, and a hair and makeup show that complemented the clothes of young designers.

Fashion Week started five years ago as a marketing tack to boost sales at the Glorietta. Today, the concept has expanded to showcase the latest consumer brands and the works of 45 independent designers. The 10-day event was an overview of the local fashion industry. On the one hand, there are the major players-local brands, licensees and a subsidiary, such as L'Oreal, investing heavily on marketing so that the image is subconsciously implanted in the consumers' minds. The objective is either to increase their awareness of the brands or their drive to buy their products.

On the other hand, Fashion Week showcases the creativity of legions of Filipino designers specializing in made-to-measure. In the past, group shows were deemed as mere entertainment. But in the context of Fashion Week, the collections served as their brochure for future customers. (It would have helped if the audience were given a designers directory.)

Mall culture

Esac Philippine Fashion Week 2002 is an initiative of the brothers Audie and Joey Espino of Runway Productions and Cal Carrie's modeling agency with the support of Ayala Center.

The event was held at the Glorietta Activity Center. To people exposed to the Fashion Weeks in Western countries, a mall may seem déclassé. In the context of Philippine culture, it is the most logical place. In our society, the mall has become the center of the urban Filipino's life. It offers everything from Mass services to massages.

Filipino brands and licensees grew with the influx of malls. The rapid development of retail spaces spurred these brands to increase their volume of production to reach out to a wider audience. The increase of stores was accompanied by bullish marketing strategies. The malls incited the product development of Filipino brands. From the relative uniformity of basics and the mix-and-match formula seen in the stores, the brands were induced to develop non-mainstream styles and to seek manufacturing overseas by a demanding local and international market.

To major brands and licensees, Fashion Week has been an exercise in focus and timing. While preparing their collections, they have coordinated with the advertising agencies and publicists. Their presentations must be synchronized with the the ads and the pre- and post-event publicity. Before Fashion Week, PRs of the big labels have been sending press releases announcing the show. After the event, editors are deluged with runway shots and post-event releases from the PRs. Meanwhile, big brands such as Penshoppe have been besieging the public with full-page ads on its summer campaign in the newspapers. Any fashion observer can see how media reinforce what has been seen on the runway.

Friendly competition

Friendly competition between youth-oriented brands such as Bench and Penshoppe and denim brands such as Jag and Lee made Fashion Week interesting. However, their shows and collections were distinct. Bench, Lee and Jag focused on denims.

Bench has been hyping its new product, Overhauled jeans. For excitement, the company tapped designers known for their unorthodox approach—Ernest Santiago and Cecile Zamora and RTW designer Rhett Eala. Santiago wowed the audience with his retro styling such as the use of rhinestones, flowers, tassels and beads. Zamora did a Rei Kawakubo while Eala showed his trademark subtle beadwork.

STRIPES, cord and twill are back with vengeance courtesy of the Vertical Limit Collection

RAYA Mananquil looks good in white and blue.

BRAD Turvy models Penshoppe's SPF line

PAOLO Bediones

But true to form, Bench capitalized on celebrities who had been role models for Bench's target consumers. Using famous faces such as Diether Ocampo and Jomari Yllana, Bench has been able to establish an emotional bond between the brand and the consumers. Among the special guests were the quintessential Bench couple, Richard and Lucy Gomez.

Jag focused on the children's market and Lee wooed the rockers. Some 90 children filled up the stage in the Jag show. The show aimed at two markets—the kids and their parents. Adult fashions such as boho, t-shirts with diamante appliqués and tattered denims were interpreted for the children.

Lee shocked the public with models exposing their colorful string bikinis, modeling bumster pants and new denim washes while strutting to the ear-splitting metal rap music of the Greyhoundz. Even the lead singer looked as if he was ready to drop his Lee jeans as his jockey girth peeked from the waistline.

Penshoppe introduced its adult label Penshoppe Ladies. The brand that has been associated with students has realized that its consumers are now supervisors and middle managers. This line was launched to show its loyalty to its clients who have grown with the brand.

Results

Executive producer Audie Espino said he enjoyed seeing the fruits of his efforts. Last year when Cal Carrie's model Bianca Araneta sported on orange Speedo swimsuit, he saw several girls in Boracay in the same style after the show.

Speedo and Adidas have been the incentive for people to work overtime at the gym, Espino added.

Hairdressers had their night during the L'Oreal hair and makeup show in conjunction with works by young designers. The hairdressers presented fantasy and real hair and makeup to complement the avant-garde looks of the young designers. It also promoted L'Oreal's Majilift haircoloring and the summer makeup line.

In the avant-garde designer category, one of the striking designs was done by Ivanursky who played up on proportions with his use of denim. Never heard of the guy, but if it was for Fashion Week, he would have been noticed.

Cal Carrie's reinforced its website, featuring its stable of models (among the hottest are Sarah Meier and Bernie Guinto).

Runway Productions supported the independent designers in the ready-to-wear and formal/luxe category.

No politics

Director Joey Espino said that although Fashion Week was chiefly a marketing tack, it was also entertainment. Each brand or show had its distinct personality. The choice of music and audio-visual support titillated the imagination of the buying public. One of the most expensive shows was "De-Lee-rium," which featured 50 models whose images were projected on 20 screen panels.

Audie Espino hopes that in the future, Runway Productions could get enough funds to get a tent and present the big names in fashion. It didn't suit the image of Ben Farrales, Pitoy Moreno, Inno Sotto, Auggie Cordero and Joe Salazar to show their creations at Glorietta.

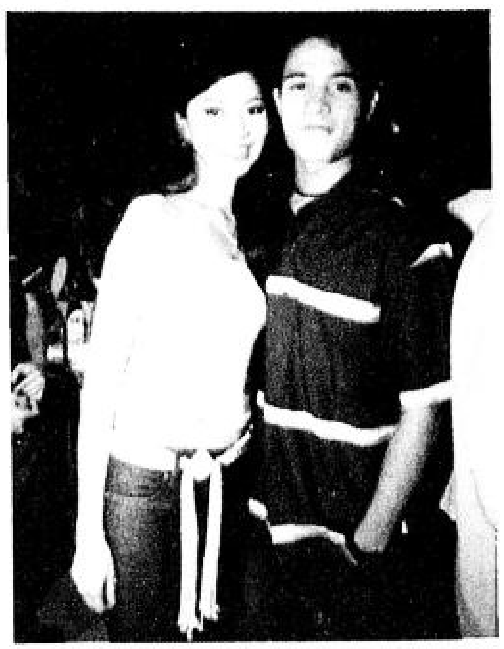
Asked how profitable Fashion Week was, Audie Espino said clients were happy with the sales. As for Runway Productions he said, "We're not after the money. We've been losing in the past five years." His brother has been very generous and willing to make sacrifices to make Fashion Week viable.

Runway Productions has been clear about its objectives. Audie said, "There's no political agenda here. We see the strengths of everyone." In other words, the company practices fair play with the designers and brands. Its foremost duty is to take their message directly to the public and hopefully, the image or the apparel fits into their lives.

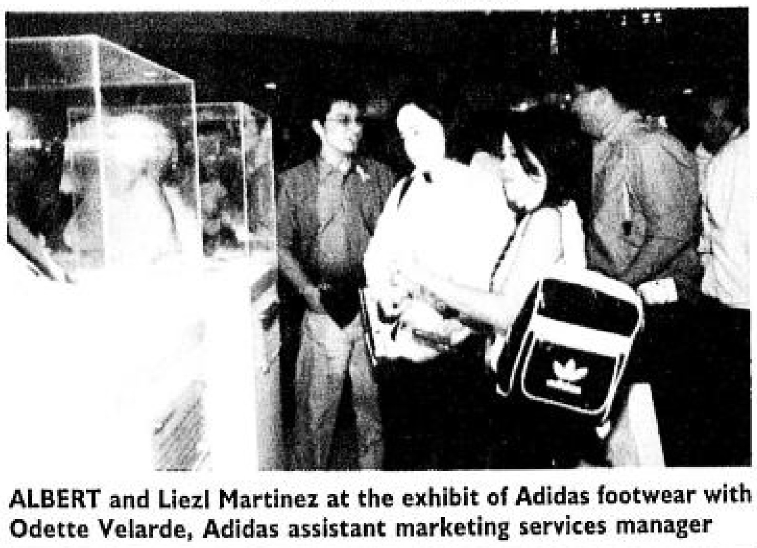
MEMBERS of L'Oreal's Style Society: Angelo Justin, Geoff Simpson, David Charlton, Jesi Mendez, Crispin Britanico, Henry Calayag and Jing Monis

GOLDEN ABC vice president Albert Ong, CEO Bernie Liu, car racer J.P. Tuason with wife Jeanette

Only five years old, Fashion Week has become a marketing celebration, style barometer, and high and low entertainment



BIANCA Valerio with Penshoppe image model Cogie Domingo



ALBERT and Liezl Martinez at the exhibit of Adidas footwear with Odette Velarde, Adidas assistant marketing services manager

JOHN Alonte, president and managing director of Adidas Philippines with star power broker Joji Dingcong

Puzzling shop

From page D3

various puzzles brought home by her mom from different parts of the globe.

A few years ago, the hobby resurfaced when her brother bought a new house and thought that the extra wall space would be a great place to display some finished puzzles.

Inspiration

More than the challenge, Servi and Trixie want to leave a legacy that they find most present in puzzle assembling—the quality time that family members are able to spend while doing puzzles together. This is the inspiration behind The Jigsaw Shop. True enough, whenever a family walks into their shop, finishing the puzzle becomes a family project.

The couple's favorite brands were not yet being sold in the local market when they started the shop so they contacted the manufacturers that included Educa from Spain, Epoch/Central Hobby from Japan and Wrebbit from Canada. These are the best in the world.

Since 2001, they have been the exclusive local distributor of leading puzzle manufacturers. At first, their merchandise was available only at specialty bookstores, particularly PowerBooks, Page One and Dymockx. But soon they felt that the demand for a one-stop puzzle shop had become great. The Jigsaw Shop was born.

The shop is not just for kids. It caters to people from all age groups and all walks of life.

Collection

The Jigsaw Shop is a place where everything imaginable has a puzzle replica ranging from 20 to 10,000 pieces.

A single glance at the Art Gallery will surely amaze art enthusiasts. The gallery showcases an exquisite collection of the undying works of Van Gogh, Beato Angelico, Botticelli, Gustav Klint, the "Mona Lisa" by Da Vinci and more. The Mandala and Japanese art are also available.

For nature lovers, Flowers and Garden and Animal Kingdom provide a wide selection of breathtaking designs to choose from. The Sports and Hobbies category includes soccer, rafting, sailing-themed puzzles and many more.

Around the World is the category for people who have the passion for travel. The collection showcases famous landmarks such as the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Great Wall of China, the Eiffel Tower and Istanbul's Blue Mosque.

The shop also has a good collection of children's puzzles, which are not only enjoyable but educational as well. Puzzles have been proven to be an effective tool for teaching simple mathematics and alphabet to young children.

We know puzzles to be flat cardboard cut into pieces, but now the three-dimensional variety is available in the Philippines. One would not miss the 3D rocket ship hanging in one corner of the shop and the 3D carousel. Arriving soon are 3D puzzles that really move.

The Glow in the Dark collection is among the most remarkable in the shop. Its luminous effect is like Midas' touch that uncontrollably turns a puzzle into gold.

For people who seek challenge, photo mosaic puzzles are available—even the owners admit it is among the most difficult to assemble. Another is the 1,000-piece Educa, which holds the record for the smallest 1,000-piece puzzle in the world. Its pieces are so small they can fit inside one's nostrils.

The bestseller? The New York skyline that still has the World Trade Center in it!

Economical

Because their prices are competitive, purchasing from The Jigsaw Shop is more economical than getting the same pieces abroad. For instance, the 300-piece puzzle that costs P500 in Japan is priced at P375 here.

The 500-piece, 1,000-piece, 1,500-piece and the 10,000-piece puzzles are priced at about P495, P695, P1,295, P9,995, respectively. Glow-in-the-dark puzzles are sold at P895, clock puzzles at P1,395 and panoramic puzzles at P795.Considering that these puzzles are the best in the world, the competitive pricing makes them a wonderful gift idea.

Best brands

There are two things that Servi and Trixie are proud of. First, they carry the best brands in the world, and second, their services are undeniably world-class.

Services include puzzle assembling, which is priced at 50 centavos apiece, the "Gimme a Piece" service—the store's policy of replacing any missing piece of a puzzle purchased from them, and high-quality framing at a very reasonable rate.

They have also provided a table in the shop with an unfinished puzzle for visitors to try out.

Even people from out of town can order from them via the online mall e-Store exchange. According to Trixie, ordering via the Internet spares one the hassle of traveling; the delivery rates are very minimal.

Home improvement sale
april 5-30

Bathroom Set
MG312-10
P715
BEFORE: P 839.75

EZ Set
Lock Set
100 CBA- US32D
- Fits 2 3/8" (60 mm) to 2 3/4" (70 mm) backset
- Cylinder knob set
*Not available in Quiapo
P390
BEFORE: P 490

TV Wall Mount
PM1327
- Adjustable 14" to 27"
- Durable
P2,250
BEFORE: P 2,999.75

Corner Rack
- 4 Layers
P595
BEFORE: P 749.75

Home and Shop
Duct Tape
129MA
- 48 mm x 9,14 m
- Repairs, reinforces & seals
* Not available in Quiapo
P95ea
BEFORE: P 112.75 ea

Towel Rail (Short)
TR14A-IN
- Durable plastic with suction
- Easy to assemble
P195
BEFORE: P 239.75

Zynolite
Flec-It
- (11 oz) 312 g.
- For masonry, wood & metal
* Not available in Quiapo & Las Pinas
P340ea
BEFORE: P 434.75 ea

Zim
Glass Cleaner
- 500 mL
- Keeps glass anti-dust, anti-mist & streak-free
P85ea
BEFORE: P 109.75 ea

EZ Set
Automatic Door Closer DC18DV1
- Reversible to right or left hand closing
- Easy to install in minutes
- High cast aluminum alloy
*Not available in Quiapo
P795
BEFORE: P 899.75

Rubber Matting
- Durable
- Available in various colors
*Not available in Quiapo
P295/ft.
BEFORE: P399.75/ ft.

Aquavac
Hobby 22
- Wet & dry vacuum cleaner
*Not available in Quiapo & Las Pinas
P5,995
BEFORE: P 7,319.75 ea

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Cable
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P224.75
BEFORE: P249.75

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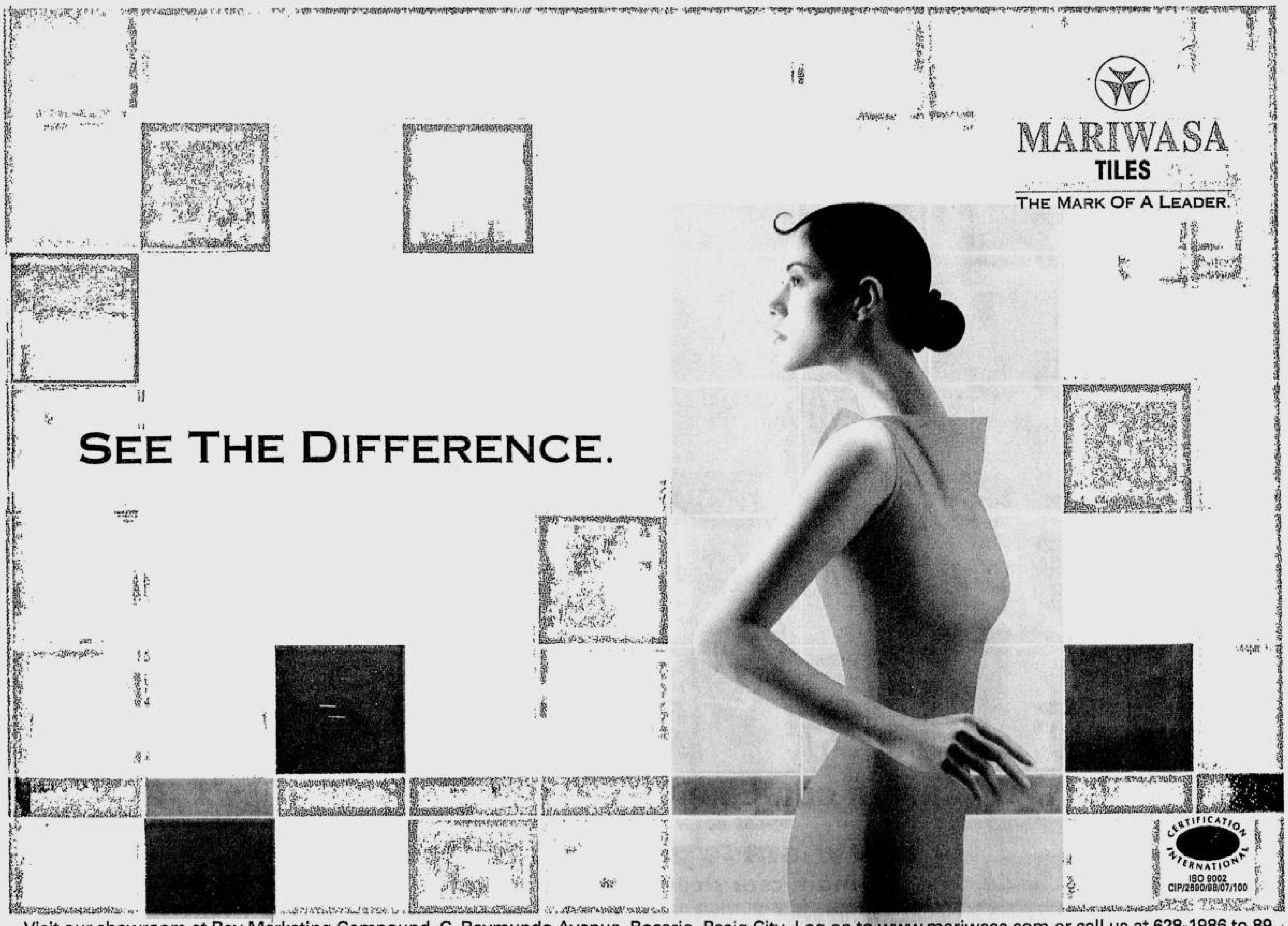
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- Green

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- Bulalo
- La Paz Batchoy

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- Pimiento

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P42 75 /ea.
Reg. Price 44.75

KELLOGG'S
Breakfast Cereals
- Chocos

170 g
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1 Plus Growing-Up Milk
- Honey Flavor

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Reg. Price 531.00

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- Lemon
- Apple

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Reg. Price 92.75

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Muriatic Acid
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
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- Beef & Liver

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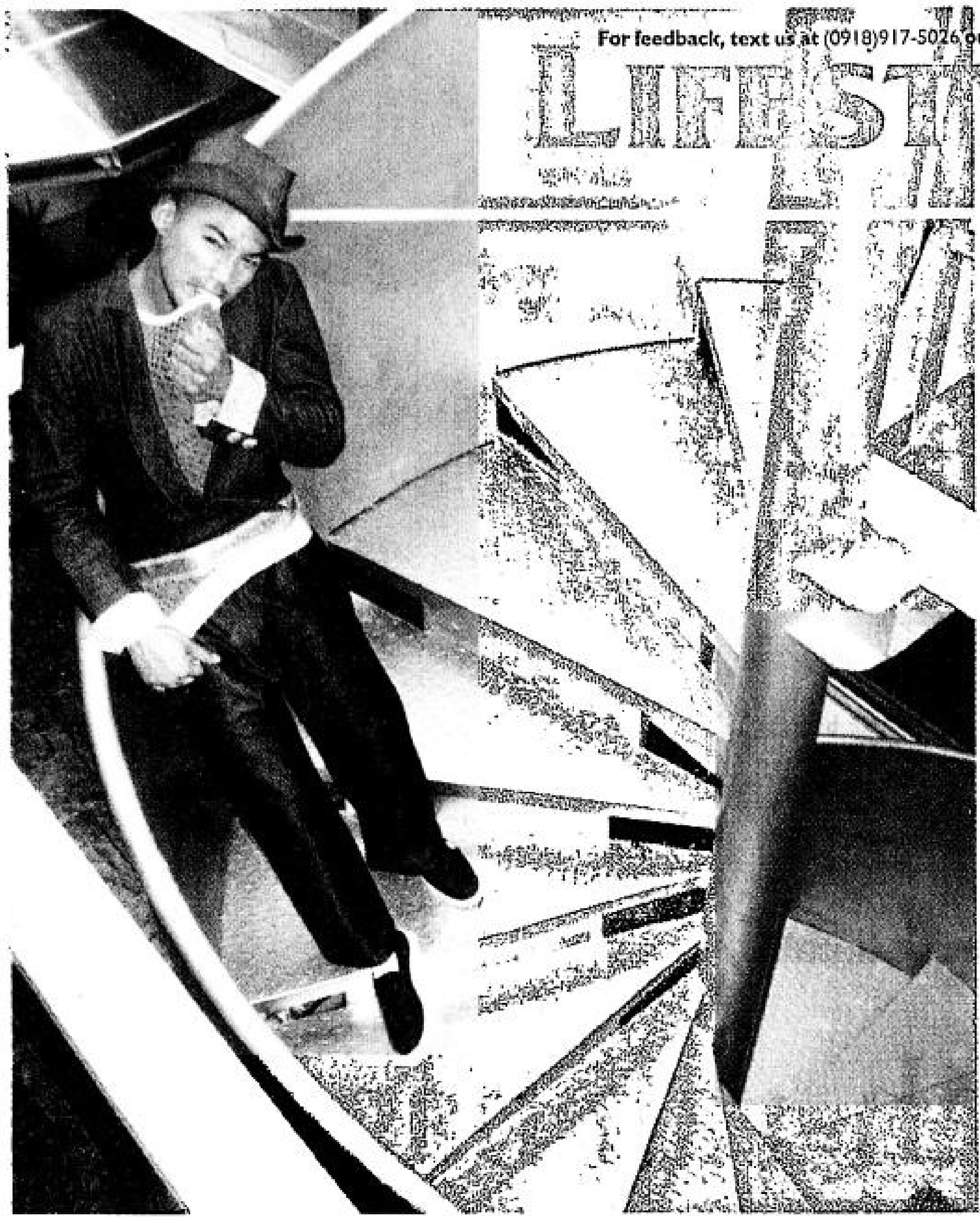
LIFESTYLE



WRAP blazer with a Philippine Airlines band and covered buttons from an old Gucci bag goes with this vintage mesh shirt and pants cuffs. It is accessorized with slip-ons, adorned with patches of snakeskin from old leather bags. The hat's silhouette is a combination of the cowboy and baseball caps.

Inventive, intuitive fashion with a classic dash

Story on page E6

DUNKIN' DONUTS
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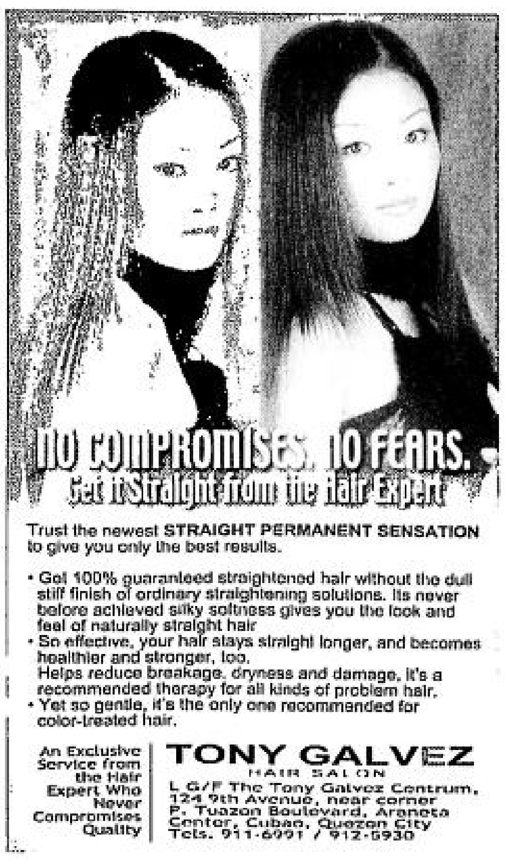
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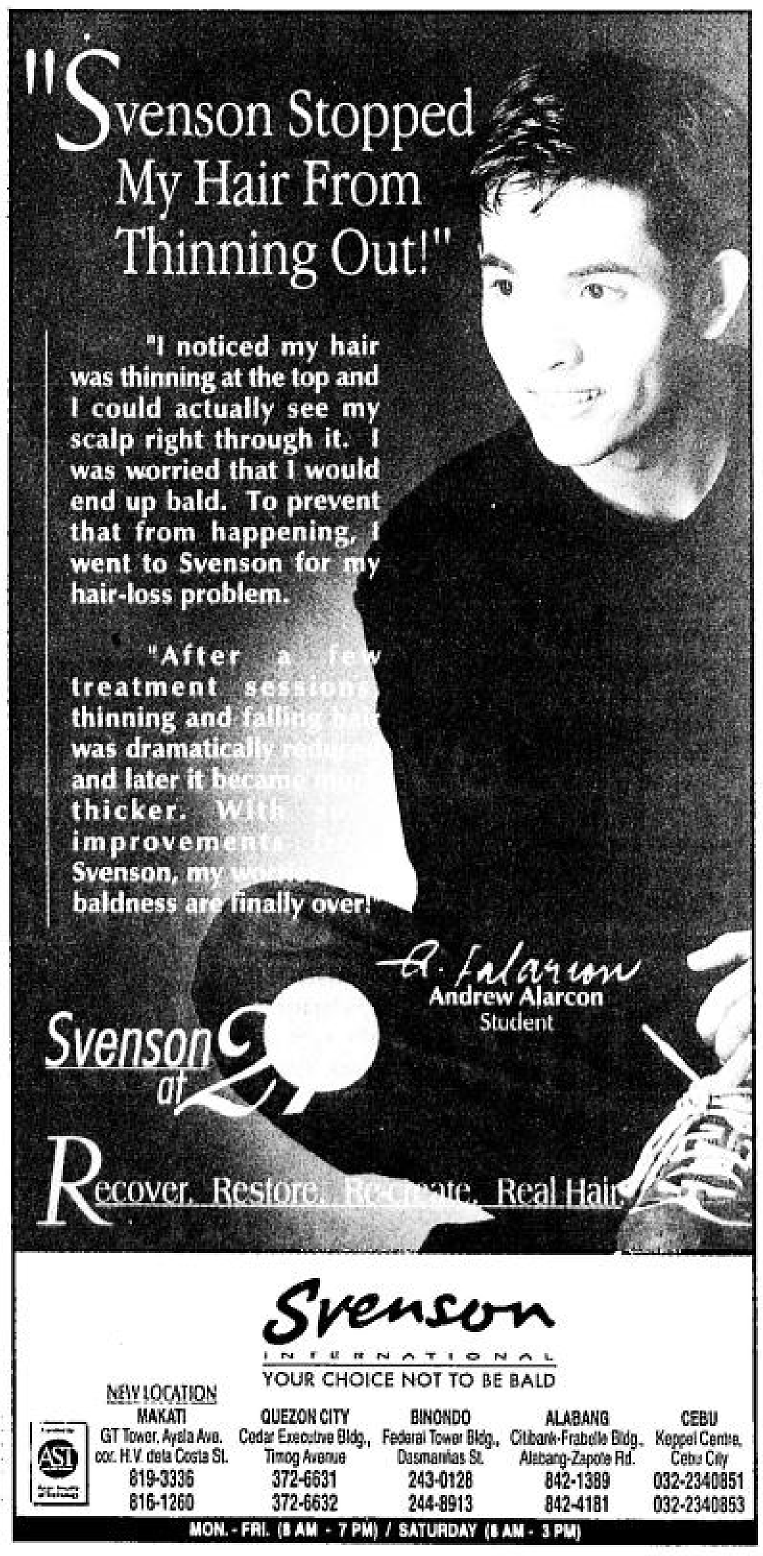
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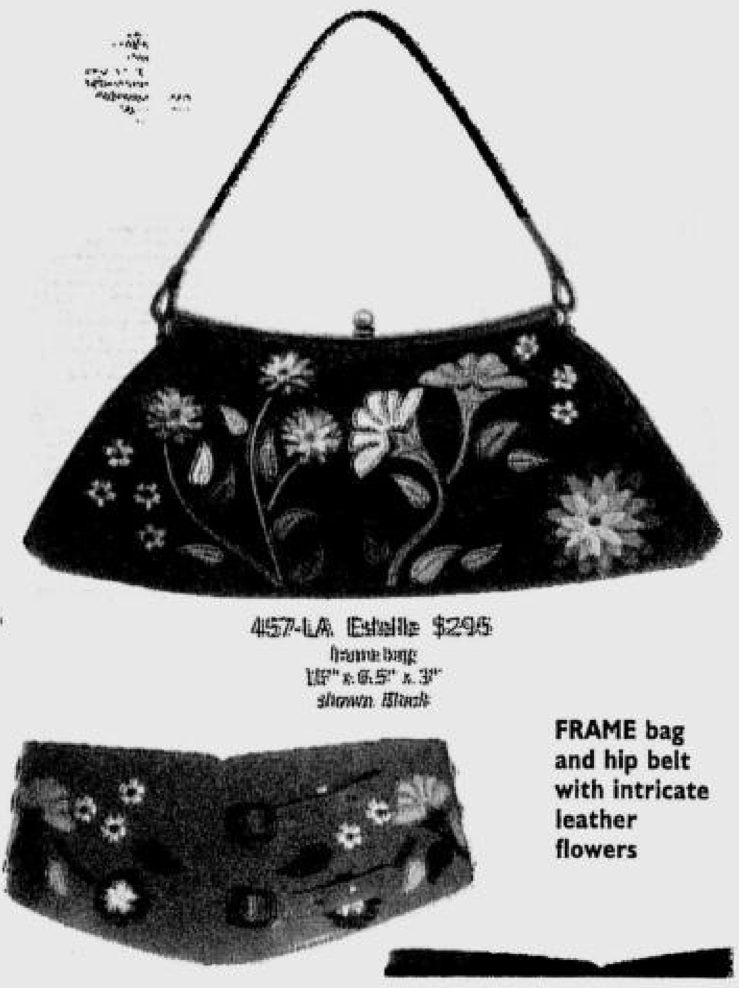
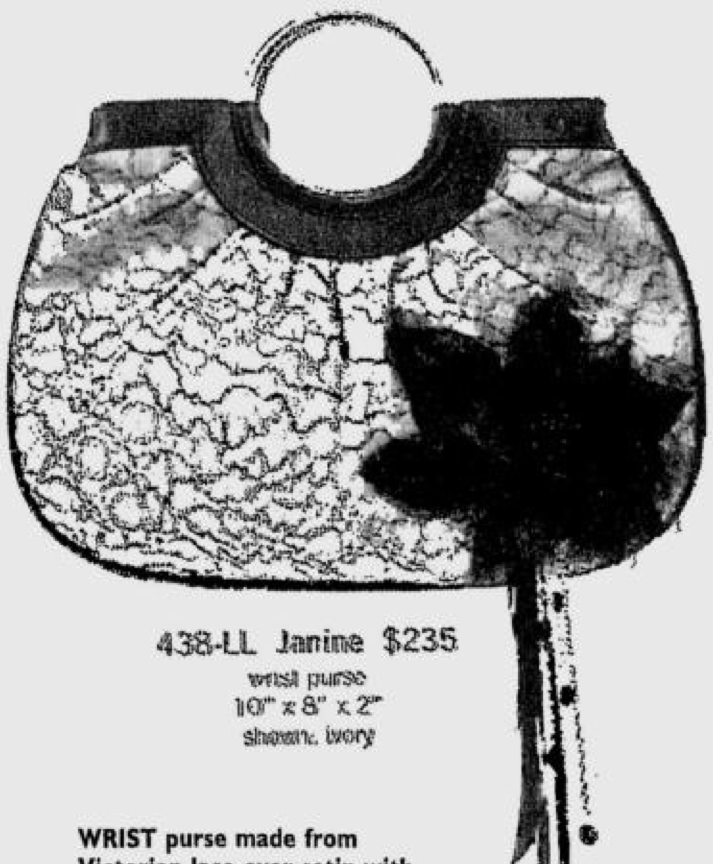


FRAME bag and hip belt with intricate leather flowers



WRIST purse made from Victorian lace over satin with leather trim. The black flower trim is made of tulle, lambskin and patent leather.

Rafe's rah-rah bags

By Bea P. Valdes
Contributor

FASHION has its own spin doctors, mutating punk into posh and elevating denim. Silhouettes are splintering into alien territories: deconstructing the feminine here, putting the hip back in hippie there, pausing for a grommeted moment, then exploding into trash fetish. Attempts to catch up with what's here and happening leave stretch marks on one's Visa card (and scorch marks from one too many low-riding jeans.)

Luckily, accessories serve as a balancing balm. Bags are usually the last piece of our wardrobe swept off the cliff of cutting edge. They are hardly ever successfully progressive. Great bags have to be functional, carefully crafted and profoundly stylish. Luxe is beyond trend. Bags are a woman's comfort cradle, holding her intimate weaponry. True classics become so after the casualty of wear.

Rafe Totengco's designs capture this sense of timelessness without being derivative. His accessories are fresh and modern. He understands that, today, Audrey means Audrey Tatou and Holly Go-Lightly morphs into Holly Go-Nightly. With his bold colors, graphic motifs and wicked wicker, his bags express the image of contemporary drama: "Structured elegance was never quite this handy," he said. "Think classic Jackie O, but without all the hairspray." Imagine, he suggests, using his Iris print bag with "jeans and a little frayed lace top." Think of the perfect accessory for timelines, tantrums, traffic and tiaras.

"Prints, please," is the catch phrase of the moment: from Lacroix newly appointed at Pucci, to the French print-based Leonard's resurrection, to Liberty prints at Mui Mui. Before this grand revival, Rafe already had caught the fever. For his new collection of bags, Rafe collaborated with Dek Tillet fabrics, a company renowned for creating instant classics and for guiding the hand of stellar print maker Lily Pulitzer. The famed American fabric house provided him with two new fresh backdrops for his items: Irises and broken dots. Rafe's partnership with them presents us with the prettiest bags of the moment.

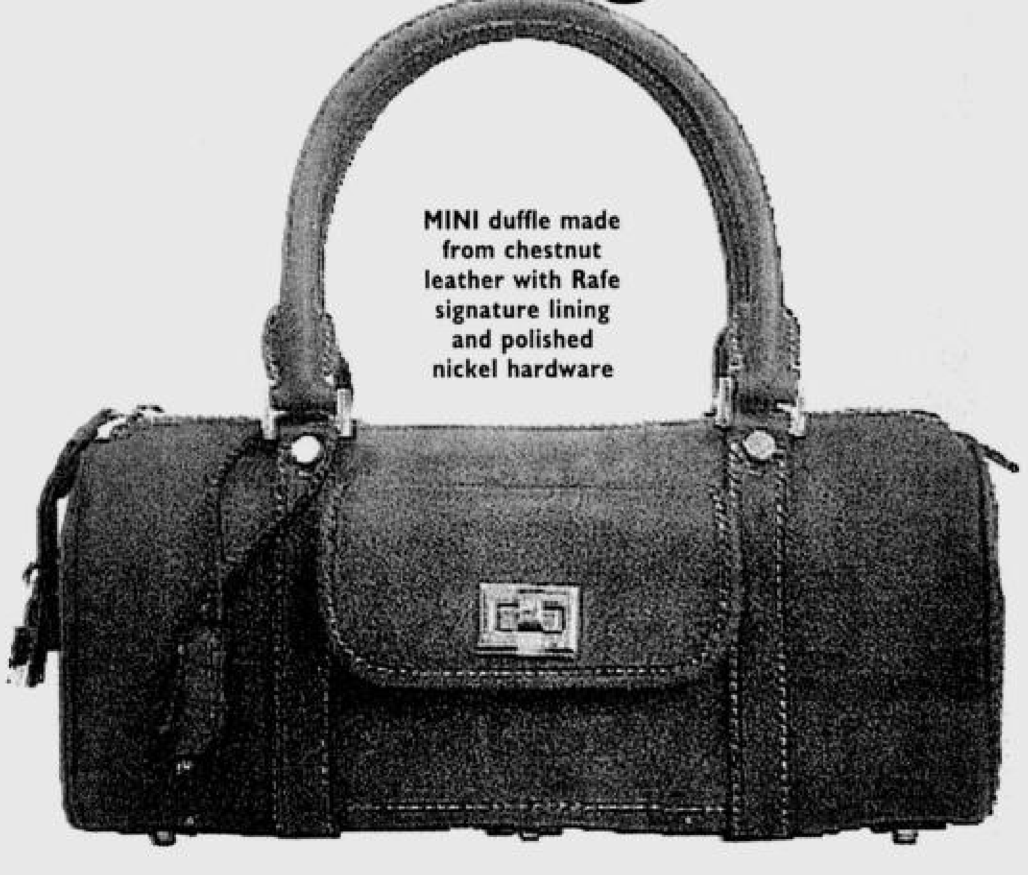
Which is what exactly one expects from someone who, at 12 years old, began customizing and restyling his school uniform. That's just the beginning of the litany. Now he has his own boutique in Soho. He has his own website where one can indulge in net-a-porter. His items are sold at Bergdorf Goodman, Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, Barneys and other boutiques worldwide. He was nominated by the Council of Fashion Designers of America for the Perry Ellis Accessory Designers Award, voted for the "Rising Star" Award by Fashion Group International, and awarded Best Accessories Designer by the Accessories Council. Recently, he was nominated for the Ten Outstanding Young Men award.

All these praises may get one to places, and for Rafe, that place is home. He once said that as he began to cement his career on the international stage, how interesting it was to find beyond the support of friends and family, the generous cheering of fellow Filipinos, as if rallying their Olympian in the fashion arena. As one of his friend laughs: "Rafe's our homeboy."

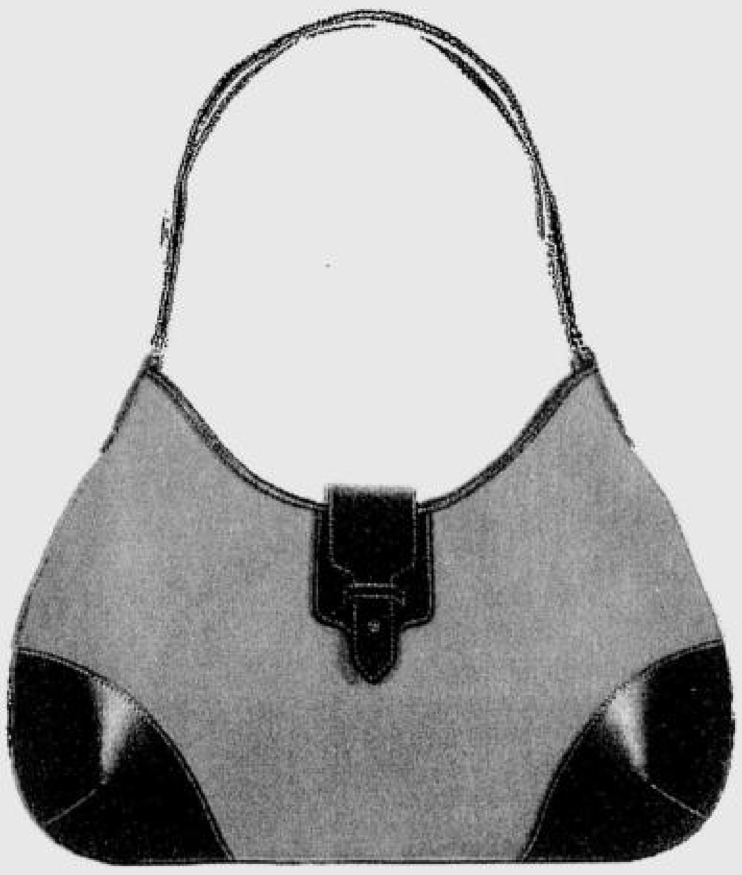
From a Sugar Island to the Big Apple, Rafe does the big easy. After all, this is the guy who made the *bakya* (Filipino wooden clog) chic. Spirited modern imagery is what he delivers. Fantasy is in your head, or on your shoulders. As he said about his St. Honore collection: "Casual Chic anywhere. Think espressos at La Duree in Paris, even if you're really just looking for coffee filters on aisle 6. But forget paper or plastic, go linen and leather. Style, like life, can be as easy as this."

Rafe is available at Mix Boutique, Greenbelt Mall

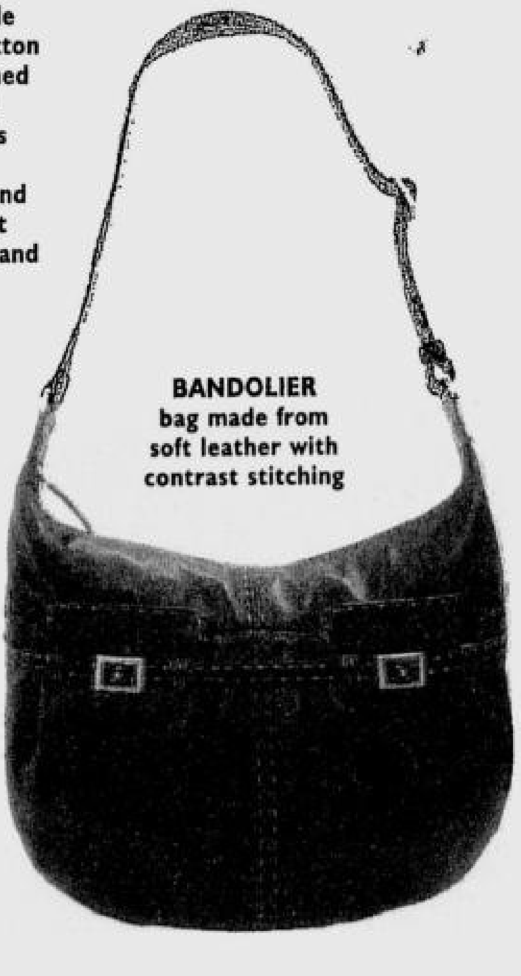
> Voted Best Accessories Designer by the Accessories Council of the United States, Rafe Totengco is the Pinoy homeboy whose bags have anticipated many of today's flashy trends



MINI duffle made from chestnut leather with Rafe signature lining and polished nickel hardware

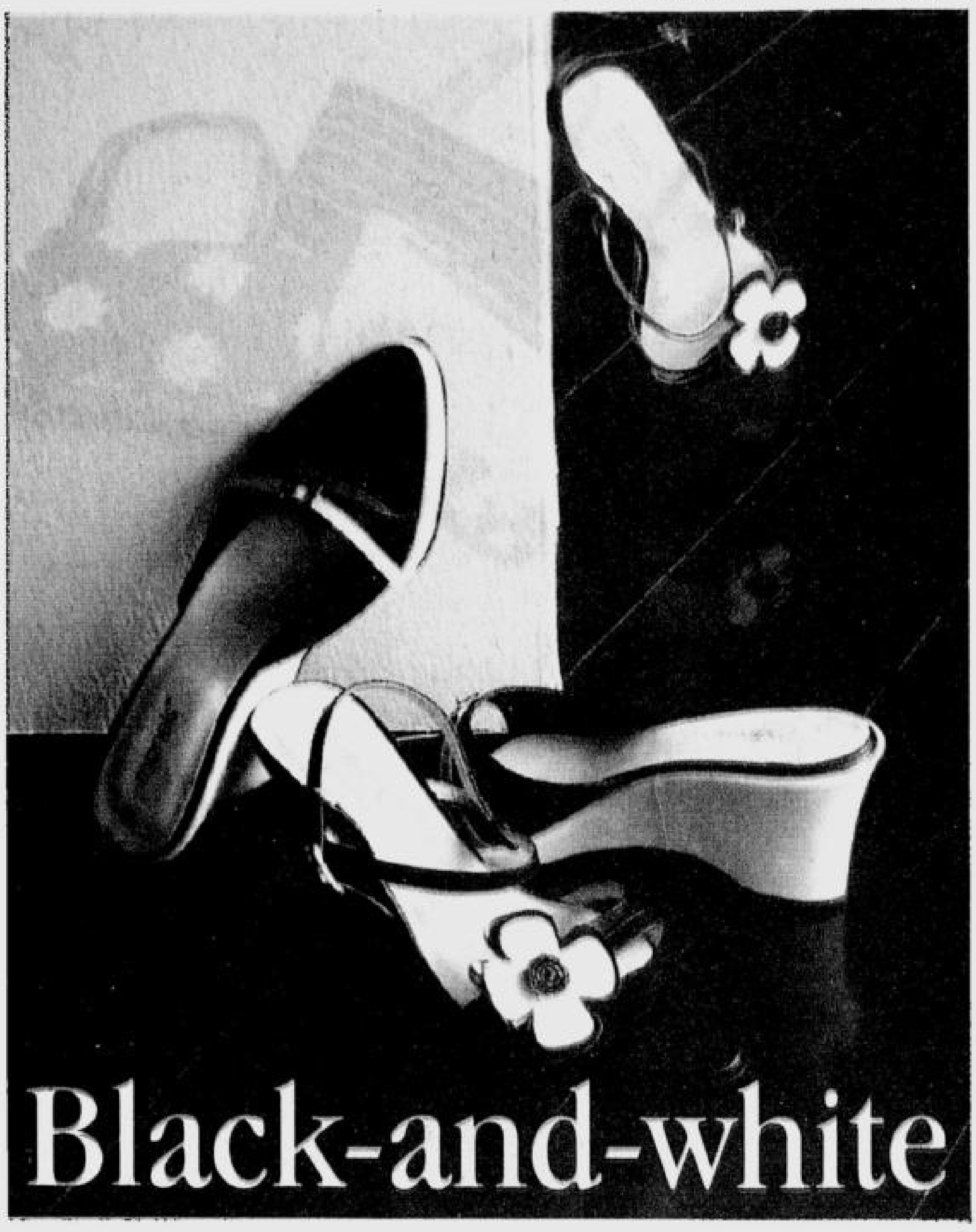


HOBO bag made from Italian cotton canvas is trimmed in leather. The feature includes zipper pocket, moblie phone and personal pocket organizer, pen and business card holder.



BANDOLIER bag made from soft leather with contrast stitching

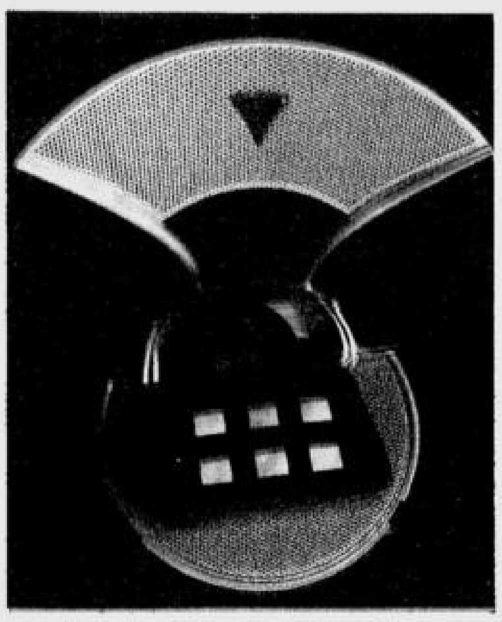
RAFAEL TOTENGCO



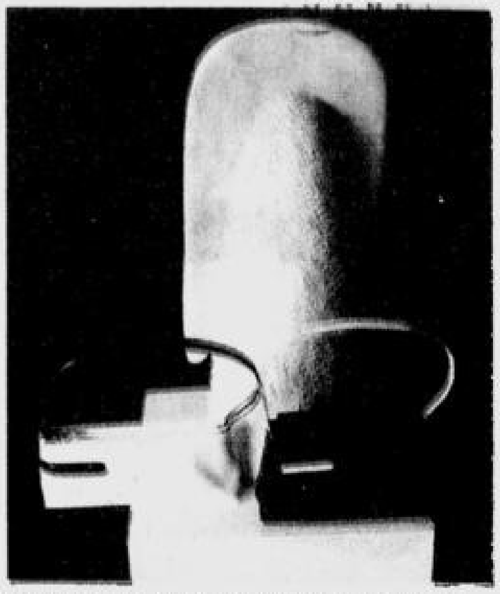
Black-and-white summer

Just because it's hot, it doesn't mean that black is out

BLOOMING. Black low-heeled mules with diagonal white stripes (P595), strappy black-and-white wedge-heeled sandals with floral accent (P1,195) and black-and-white shoes (P1,695)



BLACK tote with small white windows (P1,695)



WHITE shoulder bag with black vertical stripe (P1,895) and black shoulder bag with white vertical stripe (P2,095) against a sculpture by Dei Jardiniano

By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

ASIDE from summer stripes, ruffles, lace, butterflies and multicolors, there are other signs of summer fashion life. But we need to go back to basics. This means back to black and white. We can transpose this black-and-white philosophy to accessories.

Black pumps remain a basic in one's wardrobe. They work wonderfully well with any shade of color in slacks, skirts, jeans and suits. You may try black-and-white pumps, sandals, and mules. A nice pair of sandals with a floral accent and black-and-white straps is chic. The pair can be worn with your weekend attire or a relaxed outfit. A matching bag in black-and-white combination is also a simple way to accessorize.

For footwear, mules are a great alternative. Slightly pointed at the toe, they can be exceptionally trendy when worn with a nicely cut pair of jeans, a white shirt and a fringed or interesting belt. Your bag may remain a basic black. You may even introduce a hint of color to the outfit by using red.

E-mail the author at unit36d@vasia.com

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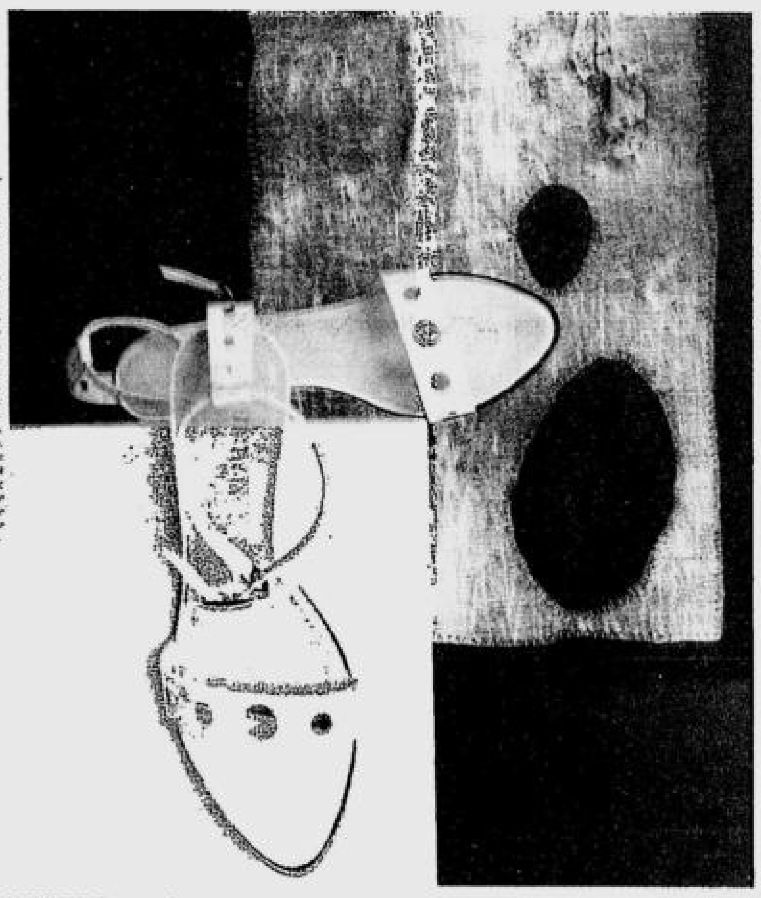

WHITE is not just for weddings. White shoes (P1,195) set against artwork by Jonathan Castro

Use gemstones to improve your life

AT THE DAWN of the Aquarian Age, learn to use jewelry designed by Melanie Talag of the Age of Aquarius Center, not only to smarten up your appearance, but also to empower, heal and transform your life.

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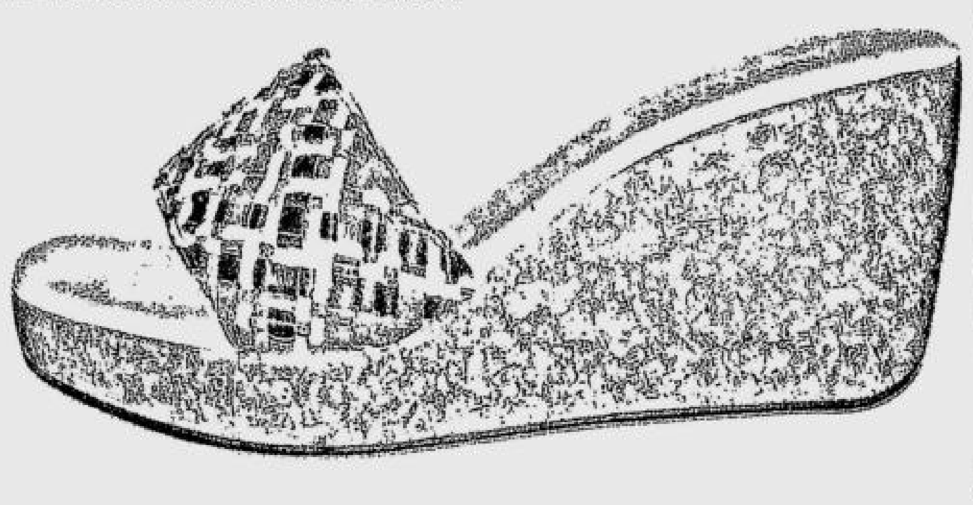
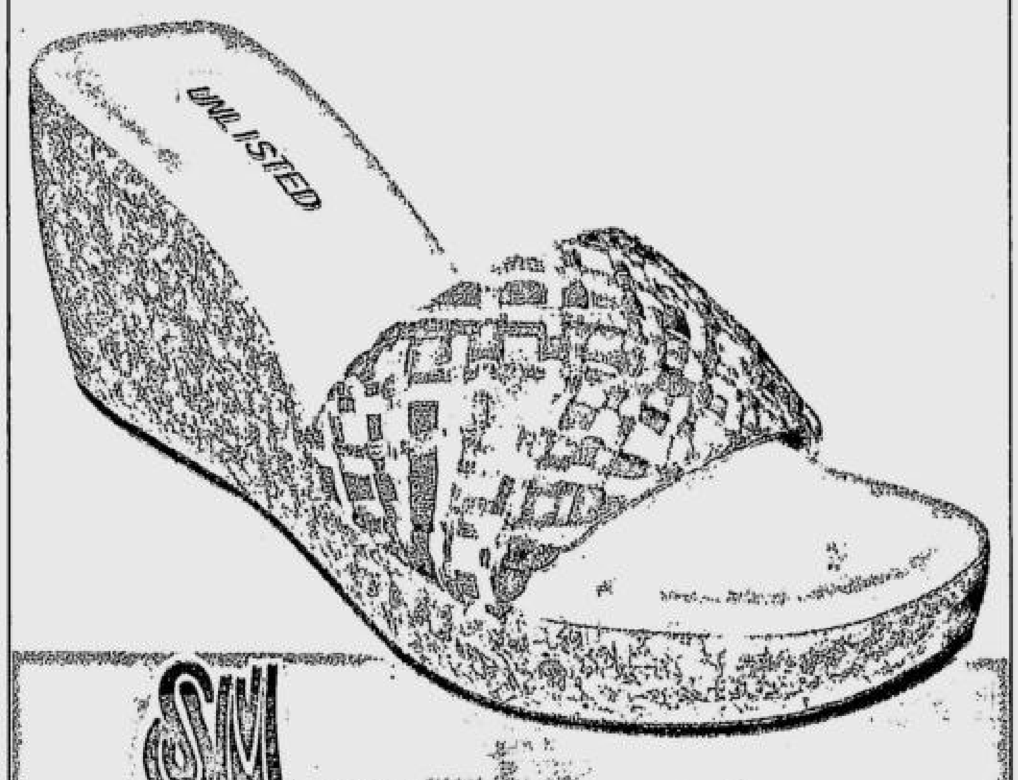
Call Melanie Talag at 725-4968.





At the ladies' Shoes Department

Cork wedge with lattice-weave straps UNLISTED

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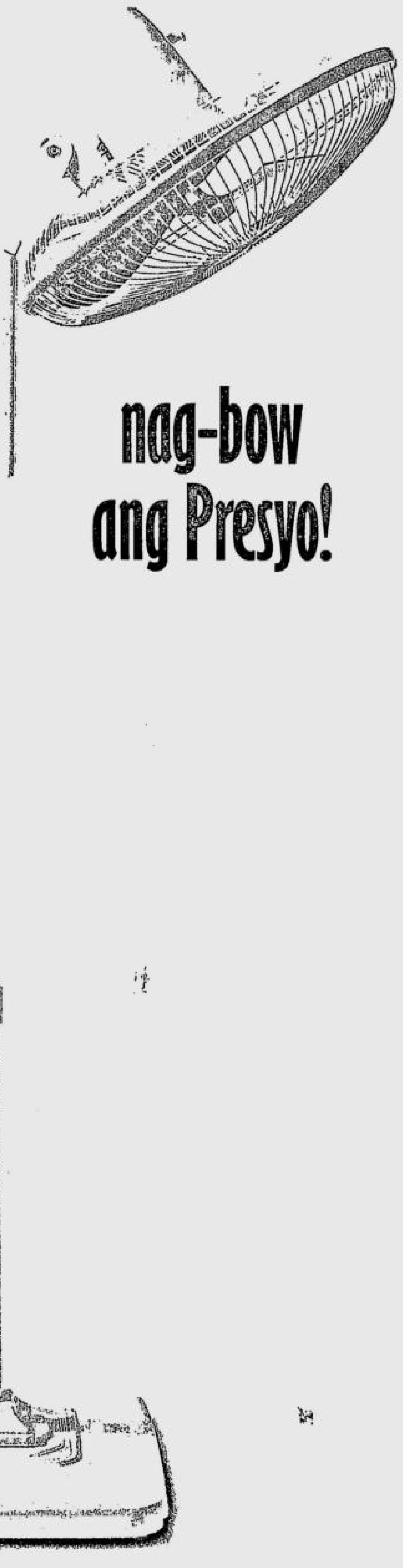

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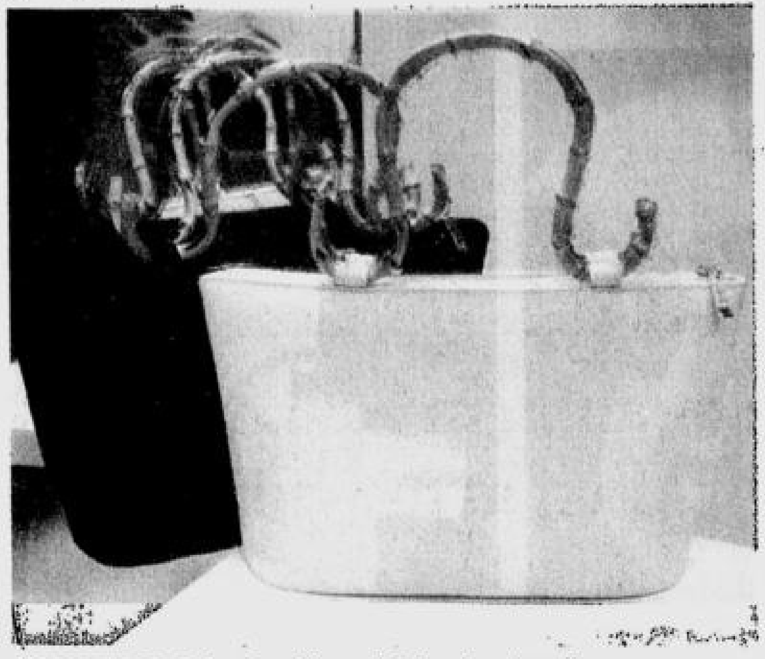
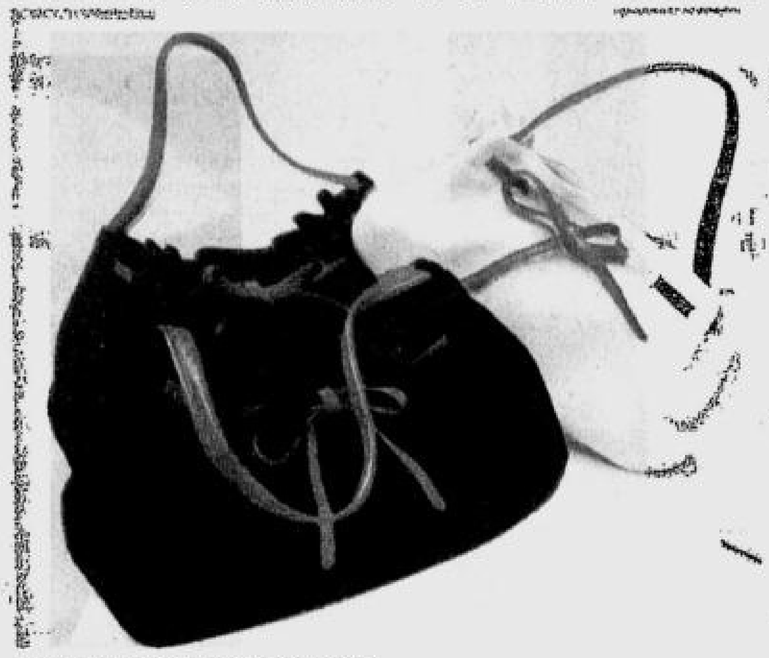


VARIATION of the Gucci bag with bamboo handle



SLOUCHY bags for casual wear

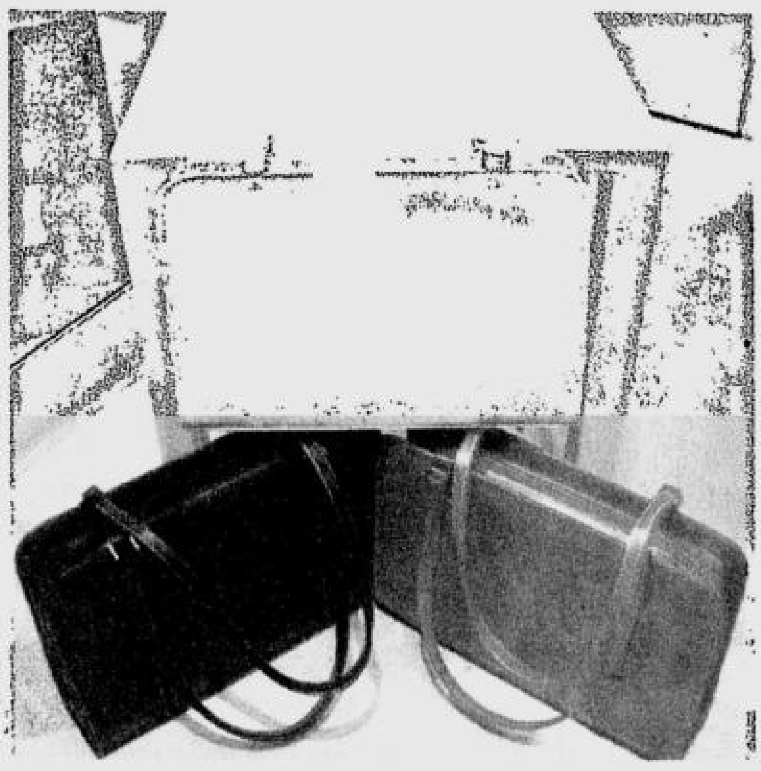
SUMMER bags

The vogue is in the bag

FIT-educated Cecilly Mabasa gets adventurous with her own bag line, INC

By Cherish Garcia Hernandez
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina

STRIPES are popular this season.



CLASSIC corporate look

AFTER GRADUATING from UP, it was logical for Cecilly Mabasa to pursue further studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. After all, her family was already in the business of producing bags for major department stores. And so armed with some hands-on experience she went on to major in "bags and accessories design" in 1994. It took her all of a year to finish the course because she already had a Bachelor's degree.

According to Cecilly, FIT was an enriching learning experience. The detail that went into the subjects taught was incredible. Not only did she learn how to make bags from scratch, she also had to learn how to make hats, belts and shoes. So specific was her training that even subjects like foot anatomy were required. When I expressed my amazement she stressed that the great Salvatore Ferragamo felt that intimate knowledge of the foot was a prerequisite to making a good, comfortable, and durable shoe.

Fashion majors

At FIT, Cecilly was able to work with other fashion majors at the school's much-awaited fashion shows. FIT students were also always being tapped to work during the much-touted fashion week and they got to work backstage at major fashion shows. Of course this often entailed being a runner or reaching over for some supermodel's bottle of Evian, but just being part of this major yearly event was a thrill for anyone remotely interested in fashion.

Upon graduation, Cecilly interned at Bally for six months. Though prestigious, much of this internship revolved around the merchandising aspect, rather than the design of the label, because their production houses are based abroad. So when an opening to work at Coach came along, Cecilly went for it, bringing with her a portfolio and her FIT and Bally experience. After a series of interviews, her final test was to make a bag from scratch. She was given roughly a week to do it in the offices. She obviously did well because she was taken on to work with Coach's product development and design team. This was more exciting for Cecilly because now she would be directly involved in design. Coach bags are all made in the United States even if their materials are sourced from places like Italy and Spain. Also exciting was that at about this time, Coach was going through a Renaissance of sorts. This was 1996 when Coach was in the process of revamping its conservative image and producing a trendier line of bags. They were also starting a new advertising campaign. Cecilly says that Coach had several design teams with about 10 people in each one. Usually they would work on a season or collection and out of about 15 designs submitted, only one would make it to production.

On her own

After a year and a half working for Coach, Cecilly decided to come home to produce her own bags. For a time Cecilly produced bags for some of the local industries leading brands. Nowadays though, she has ventured out into her own with INC, her brand of bags. She is adventurous with her materials using denim, faux suede, micro fibers and canvas to bring her designs to life. Her training has made her mindful of the quality and usability to complement the design. We were discussing how some bags look nice but are not very usable. She says that most of the time she tries her bags out herself to see how she can fine-tune them even more. She says even the length of the strap in relation to the size of the bag should be taken into consideration. The day I met her she was using a little stripped pouch-like baguette that I found really cute. I am actually pleased that interesting quality bags are now being produced locally.

The bag is an essential accessory for any woman. Not only does it hold everything we cannot seem to live without, it can serve as an accent piece as well. Not too long ago, one had to invest a major amount of money to get a decent bag—that meant the Prada, Gucci, or even Kate Spade variety. But look around and you'll see most of Manila carrying around very trendy bags because of their affordability and availability.

Range

When I asked Cecilly what the price range of her bags was, I was astounded to find that they were between P599-799. For a bag addict that is price heaven. Right now, INC's bags can be described as classic trendy. Cecilly laments that even if they are now starting to be more daring when it comes to fashion, majority of Filipinas are still conservative, pointing out that her customers will always opt for safer colors like black, rather than something like red. "They always pick out the colorful one at first, but end up buying the safer one in the end," she says.

For now, Cecilly is concentrating on bags but she agrees that shoes will be a logical progression. She says that a lot of work has to go into finding a good mold because she wants to produce comfortable shoes. Right now, she has her hands full with her store at the Greenhills Theater Mall. She will soon have a kiosk at the Glorietta in Makati.

Call Cecilly Mabasa at (0917) 531-5718

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

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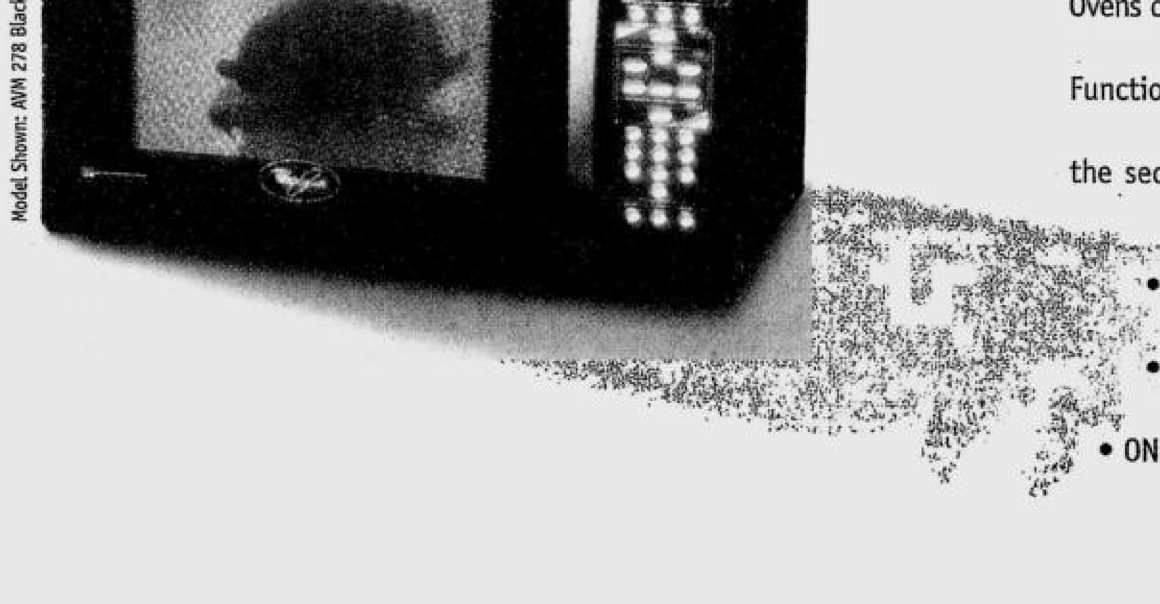

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THE HOUSE of Sara Lee Phils. has officially launched Wonderbra in the country. Hailed for its "superior push-up design" when first introduced in the United Kingdom, Wonderbra has come up with Three Degrees of Wonder—three different levels of shape enhancement for the different levels of sexiness needed by today's women—in line with its commitment to superior performance and quality. The wearer can be transformed in an instant from confident-sexy to bombshell-sexy by a mere change in bras.

The First Degree (Sparks) features a subtle shaping boost with its Tech Shine Bras while the Second Degree (Flame) are padded/add-a-size bras that produce a gentle swell and a glimpse of cleavage, best exemplified by the Microfiber T-Shirt Bra. For the ultimate cleavage enhancement, the classic Seamless Push-Up Bra from the Third Degree (Fire) family is fully padded, giving maximum support.

The Wonderbra is available exclusively at House of Sara Lee branches and authorized House of Sara Lee dealers nationwide. Call 810-5402, or e-mail customer.relations@hosl-ph.com.

Summertime flair

RDS SUMMER. Comb the beach and show off that great body with only these shorts on!

HIT the sunny shores with the coolest sum-mer wear at the most affordable prices courtesy of Robinsons Department Store (RDS).

This season, there are muscle shirts, monochromatic as well as printed sandos, polo shirts and shorts in shades of white, blue and red. Choose from an array of styles that you can mix and match, and jazz them up with beachcomber accessories like sunglasses and printed bandannas. A pair of strappy sandals and rubber soles will complete the look. All of these at prices you can afford. Visit your favorite RDS branch and enjoy these great summer buys.

Price war continues

CORSO Marconi continues the battle against prices which started last year by offering more selections at the best prices this year.

Imagine the 2001 collection of Italy's top labels available at up to 70-percent off on both cash and card purchases. This includes stylish shirts from Messori, Enrico Coveri, Sorbino, Trussardi, Guiducci and pants from Helmut, Rugantino, Montenapoleon and Sintomo for men, and dresses from Ellen Capellino, Gai Mattiolo, Max & Co., Mariella Burani and Nantucker Island, tops from Stefanel, Rose D., Krizia and skirts from Motivi, Sonia Fortuna and Pietrogrande for women. Formal wear from Anthony Dellamore and Gai Mattiolo, ties from Pal Zileri, bags from Genny and Sergio Soldano and shoes from Francesca Falconi, Paola Ferri and Emmegi are among the many selections one can choose from.

Corso Marconi's latest offerings are available at its branches at Marconi corner Morse Street, Makati City (main), Robinsons Galleria, SM Megamall, Festival Supermall Alabang, Cebu and Bacolod.

FOR HIM. Sorbino white V-neck shirt over Tactel fuchsia shirt and Rugantino cotton shortpants. For her: Stefanel pink shoulder-baring top and Motivi fuchsia skirt and scarf. From Corso Marconi

LIG's regular stores in Metro Manila and Cebu carry the 2002 collection of Italy's hottest brands like Versace, Pinko, Max Mara, Gianfranco Ferre, Trussardi, Castelliani, Motivi, Altra Moda, David Meyer Ferrone, Compagnia Italia, among others. The latest collection is available at regular prices.

Innovation costs an arm and a leg. Sometimes a broken arm and leg.

Few people would ever give a thought to something as trivial as a plaster cast. After all, there are a million other things that can mess up the mind. A plaster cast doesn't even come as a subconscious, Freudian-style thought to an ordinary person.

But this is precisely what separates the people working for 3M from the people working in let's say, a giant accounting firm. You pretty well know how accountants can be so unflinching. Can't blame them. Their being obsessive-compulsive is the lone reason why they're paid huge sums.

On the far end of the spectrum are people working for 3M. They worship change and ingenuity. They relish the opportunities to ponder the why's and what if's of things like, you guessed it, plaster casts.

This bizarre pre-occupation with things trivial has produced no, not atom-sized machines that repair bones but something more tangible-**Scotchcast.**

It's still a cast, what's so earthshaking about that? First, 3M is not about revolution. It's about innovation. You know, making things better.

You don't have to break your arm just to know the torture of being engulfed in a plaster cast. You might have signed your name on the cast of your pesky childhood friend, thanking fate for the misfortune that has befallen the neighborhood bully.

Now, **Scotchcast** combines "the smooth-as-silk synthetic casting tape with the handling ease of plaster," as the blurb goes. Synthetic casts are lightweight, durable, smooth and porous while plaster casts can be molded easily. Combine the two and you have Scotchcast Plus. A cast that, rather than enslave the patient, can actually be a chic paraphernalia because it comes in different colors and is extremely lightweight.

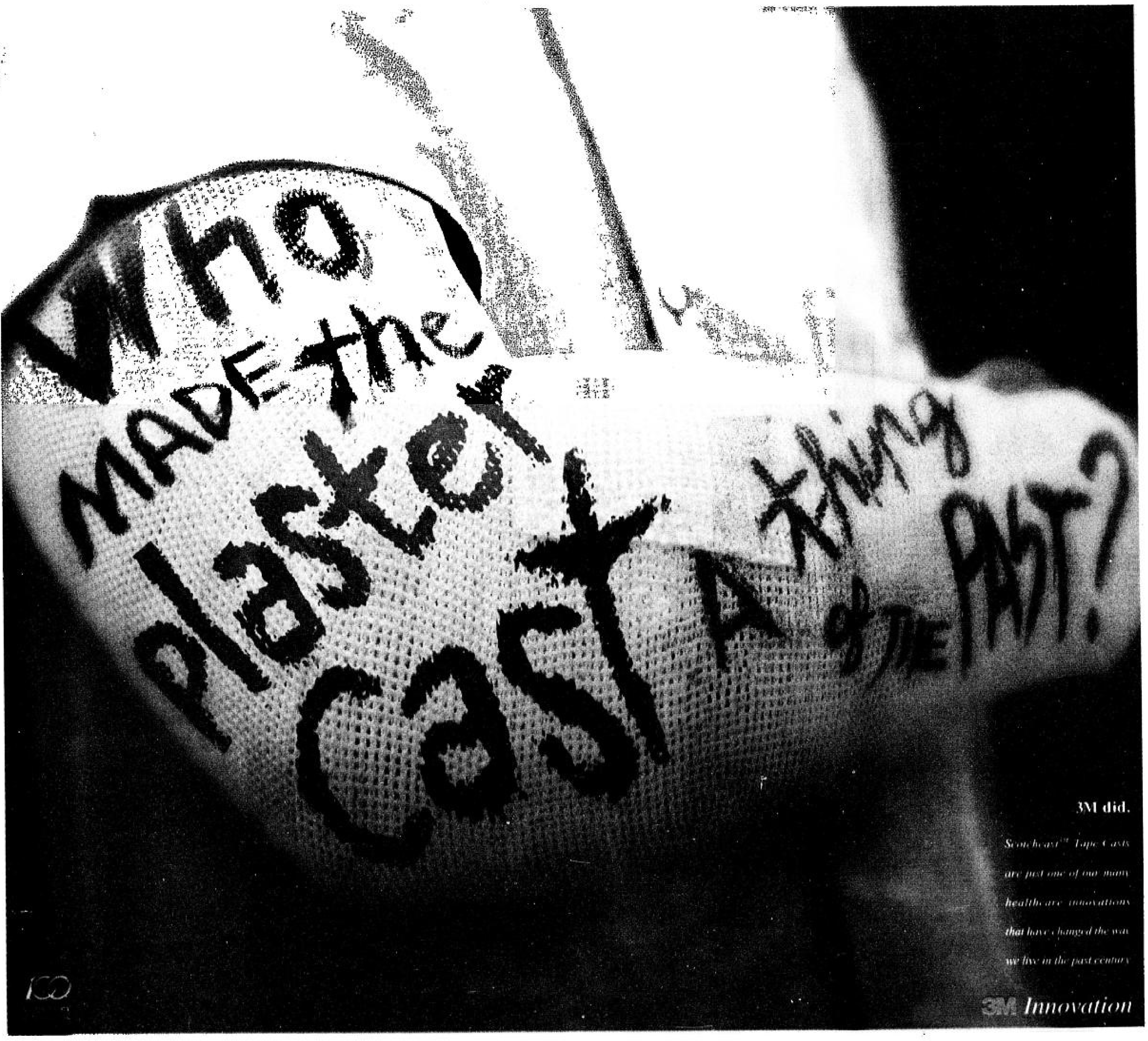
Comparing a plaster cast with **Scotchcast** is like comparing The Flintstones with The Jetson's. They're worlds apart.

The bottomline is, **Scotchcast** is just one of hundreds of 3M innovations. 3M has been innovating even before the word innovation became a chic battlecry for 21st century companies. Innovation has been 3M's mantra for the last 100 years.

If you haven't noticed the tiny out significant improvements in your daily life, that just shows how 3M products are working. They make your life better without actually changing the way you live.

Of course you may still have to wait for weeks before a broken bone heals. But at least you won't be dragging a two-ton cement contraption anymore. All because some odd but ingenious people from 3M thought of, of all things, plaster casts. **3M did**

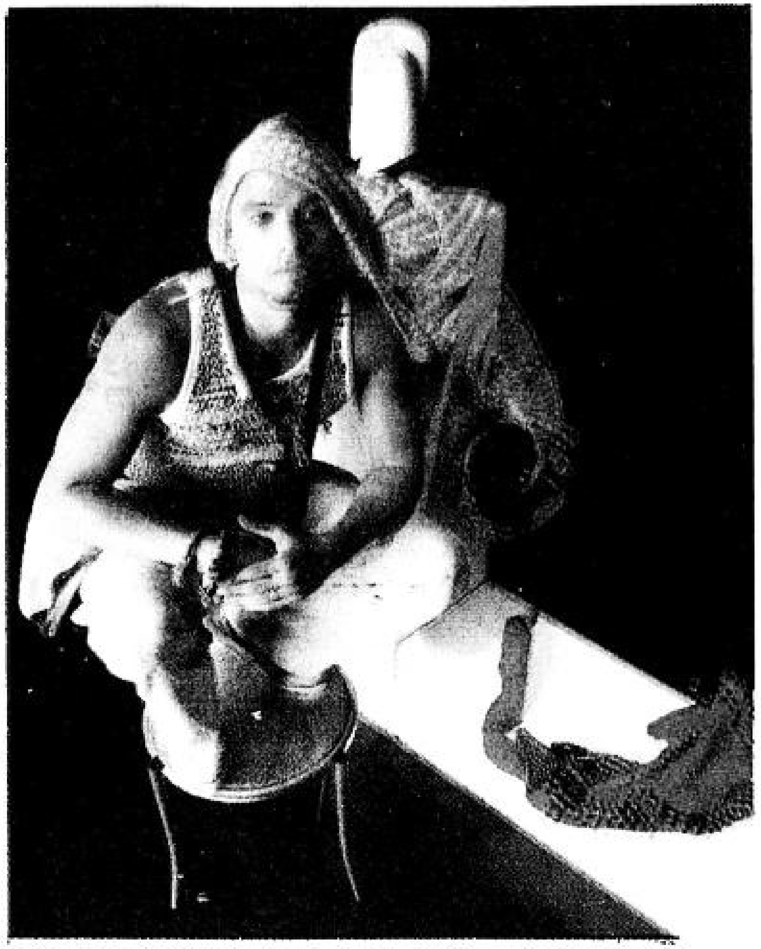
ADVT.


Who MADE the plaster cast A thing of THE PAST?
3M did.
Scotchcast™ Tape Casts are just one of our many healthcare innovations that have changed the way we live in the past century
3M Innovation

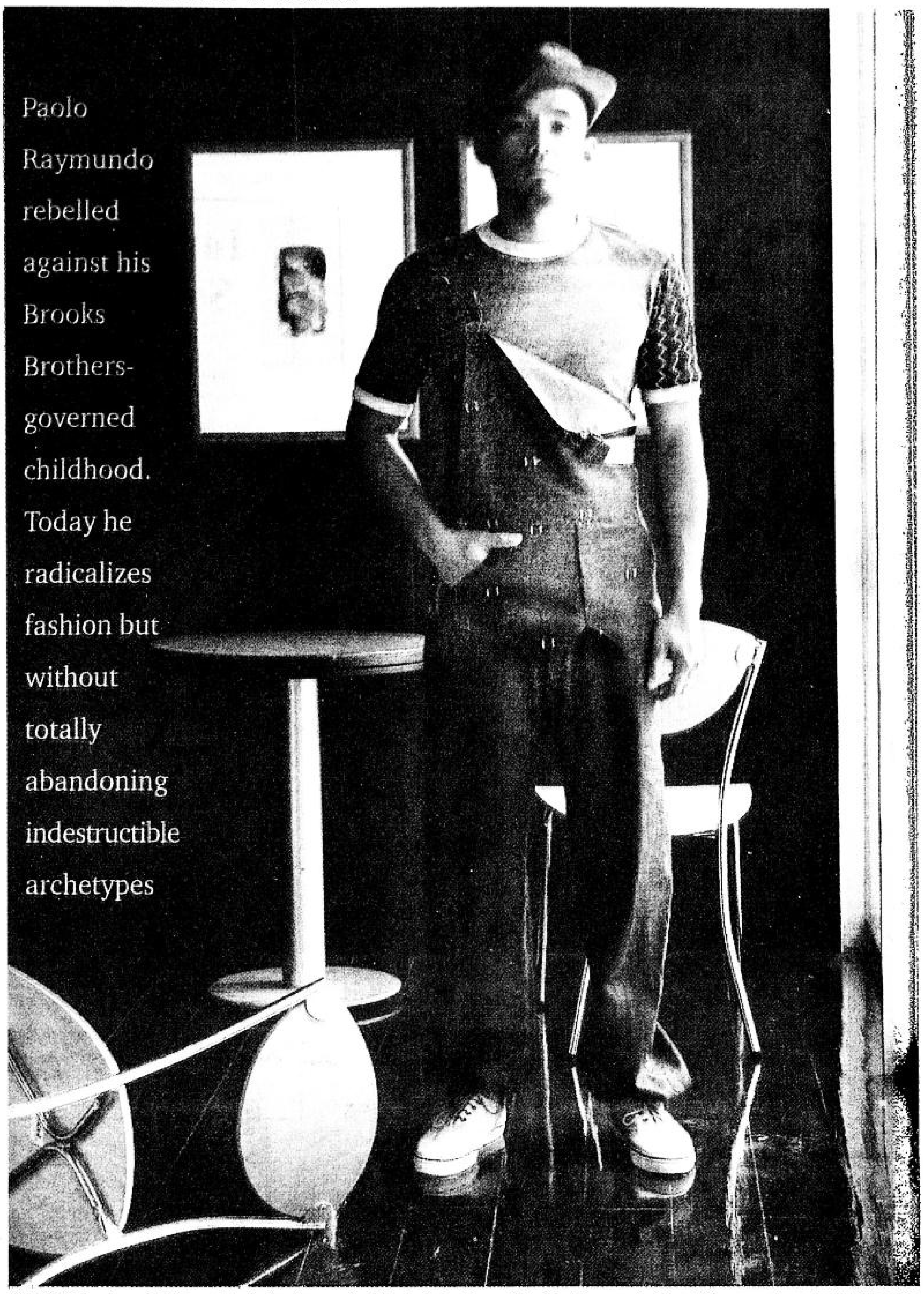
Inventive, intuitive fashion with a classic dash

Paolo Raymundo rebelled against his Brooks Brothers-governed childhood. Today he radicalizes fashion but without totally abandoning indestructible archetypes

INVENTIVE/ p.E7



WOVEN tank shirt, inspired by the bath mats from home, is accessorized with a belt beg from long sleeves. The inner-city gangster references are the handcuffs as bracelets and the anorak, softened by knit that is used as hood. The athletic nylon bag is made into a knapsack. The strap can be worn in different ways such as like inverted suspenders. Bleached denim sneakers complete the look.



BLEACHED wringer T-shirt and denim jogging pants with elasticized hems (the fabric is sewn inside out) becomes formal with this satin-lined vest made from an overall.

KUNG FU-INSPIRED pinstriped shirt is bleached and embroidered with floral patches. It goes with the herringbone cropped denim pants with exposed zippers and wrestling boots. The denim gym bag with macramé straps is worn as a backpack.

MODEL: PAOLO CABALFIN, CAL CARRIE'S
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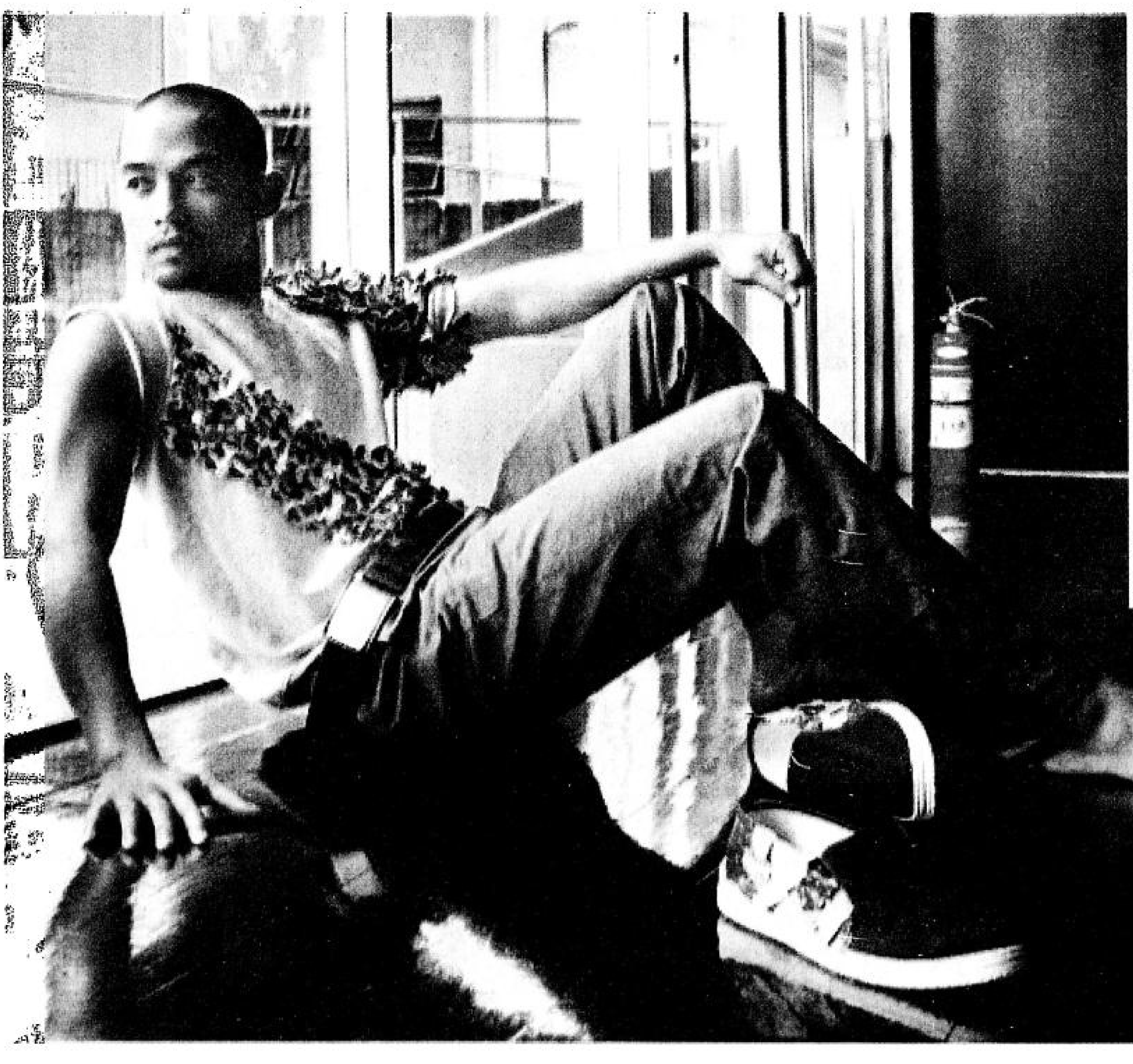

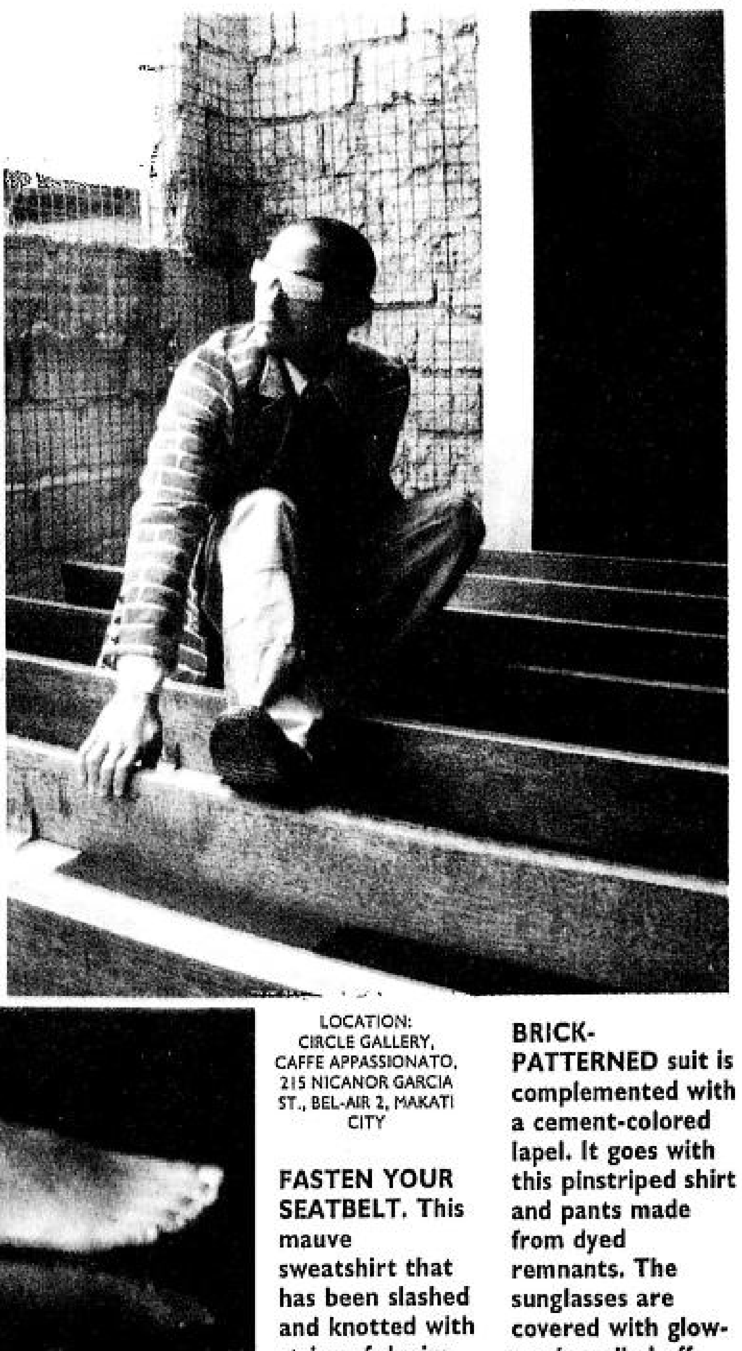

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CITY

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT. This mauve sweatshirt that has been slashed and knotted with strips of denim, gauze and bias tape is strapped with an airline seatbelt. It goes with a stretch denim that is sewn like dress slacks.

BRICK-PATTERNED suit is complemented with a cement-colored lapel. It goes with this pinstriped shirt and pants made from dyed remnants. The sunglasses are covered with glow-mesh, pulled off from a vintage bag. The brick look is contrasted with shiny rubber galoshes.

Inventive, intuitive fashion with a classic dash

PAOLO Raymundo and his sister Rina share the same vision.

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

WHEN Paolo Raymundo was a child in New York City, his mother dressed him up in Brooks Brothers outfits. Clad in the quintessential Waspy style, he felt uncomfortable as it symbolically encased his body in fashion conservatism, which was the complete opposite of his freewheeling and iconoclastic personality.

Today he is no longer the schoolboy subjugated by conventions. Arriving for the INQUIRER pictorial with his clothes and accessories in tow, Raymundo sports a modern Mohawk. The sides have been shaved, and hair is beginning to grow while a strip of lush hair lifts from the crown and cascades into a long flip. He catches any fashion watcher off-guard with his unique style: a white shirt with embroidered cutouts of organic shapes is teamed with a black Helmut Lang T-shirt and easy-fitting cropped jeans that show off his Camper wrestling boots.

One marvels more at his individualistic and ingenious style than its eccentricity.

"Style is knowing how to pull together something and make it work for yourself," he says. "If you have a strong sense of style, you have a strong sense of self. It's knowing who you are and what you want to project without saying anything."

Tactile

His honest projection of himself is his best credential.

"I don't consider myself a designer. As cheesy as it sounds, I like to call myself an 'artist' who creates. It just so happens you can wear the clothes," he says.

Indeed, his menswear collection easily blends with the artworks at the Circle Gallery of Caffe Appassionato in Bel-Air, Makati. Owner Bert Bravo, a onetime arts and antiques dealer, wants to use the space behind this café to exhibit works of artists who are young and courageous.

Raymundo's works, characterized by a lot of handwork and experimentation with fabric treatments, could easily pass off for installations at the gallery. He combines components from his mother's bags, vintage fabrics, components and "weird things" with materials that have been bleached or ripped.

Although the clothes combine several tactile textures, Raymundo maintains harmony by the uniformity in shapes, colors and patterns. His designs may seem incomprehensible to the average polo shirt and jeans wearer. But to artists and fashionistas, his clothes are exhilarating. They appreciate Raymundo's wit, coupled with an eye for scale and proportion and that Capricornian patience for fastidious craftsmanship.

For instance, he adorns a man's crew-neck shirt with knotted strips of Red Cross bandages, circa 1945, and pairs them with pants that resemble striped oxford shirting material. He contrasts the tactility of a mottled denim suit, adorned with rows of elasticized rope belts, with a shiny tuxedo shirt, accented with a shirred and striped bib.

Brooks Brothers influence

Raymundo is preparing a 60-piece collection for his first fashion show on May 1 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Young at 22, he easily absorbs influences around him, which make his imagination fertile. He recalls growing up in an environment of antiques that must have stimulated his tactile style. He is also inspired by images from the streets such as a street juggler in Bangkok's Kao San Road and inner-city gangsters in the place of his birth, New York. Yet he pays respect to classical tailoring, thanks to his parents for the Brooks Brothers influence.

New twist

From years of wearing Brooks Brothers, the Wasp aesthetic must have penetrated his subconscious. Although his clothes are cutting-edge in the true sense of the word, there are allusions to classic tailoring such as the proportions—suit coats with wide shoulders and chest but tapered on the hips, and roomy trousers—and details such as fine stripes against a white background.

"I like to mix traditional tailoring with a youthful way of wearing it," he explains.

Raymundo says his clothing concepts veer toward polarities such as Richie Rich meets Raggedy Andy (with a bit of Mr. T thrown in for humor), the sailor-pirate look or the janitor-cum-executive or the millennium version of "The Prince and the Pauper."

Raymundo likes to take pieces apart and give them a new twist. An overall is made into a top with a cutaway front much that resembles a man's vest. Sleeves from classic dress shirts are sewn into belt bags. He recreates a blazer, a preppie symbol, by stopping the length at the first hip and sewing exposed pocket bags from shirt fabric.

His clothes are done with a lot of deliberation, not just whim. He gets his ideas just before he sleeps. He keeps a pen and pencil by his bedside. The inspiration is coupled with the hard work. Raymundo's foundation is solid. He makes his illustrations with technical descriptions. He pays attention to construction, followed by the pattern and sourcing of the fabrics.

"There are designers who are more of stylists. There's a difference between producing looks and actually creating new clothes," he says. "To me, technical concept comes first. The look comes last."

Celebrity clients

Raymundo keeps his business modest and keeps only one sewer. From previous experience, he found it difficult to delegate everything to the sewer since his clothes are very conceptual. "I had a problem with leaving clothes to someone else. The clothes get messed up. They don't end up with the original idea," he says.

Besides, as Raymundo constructs, the garment starts evolving. He starts mixing buttons or changes collar shapes.

Although the clothes may seem to appeal to the young and the adventurous or to entertainers such as Gary Valenciano, Basti Artadi and Robert Seña, his clothes also appeal to his mothers' friends and even Armida Siguion-Reyna. There's something about his details that boomers could identify with. Although he was born in the era of punk and new wave, Raymundo's details hark to the hippie days such as skirts made from bias strips and neckties or denims flared with appliqués. Siguion-Reyna gave him a *manton* that he cut into a bias, sewed and layered to create a visually kinetic pattern.

Raymundo has no plans for expansion to maintain the quality of his works and, more important, the individuality of the looks. As one of the designers for Milkwear, he has to make compromises for salability. In his made-to-measure business, his creativity is unbridled.

Although Raymundo's inventiveness and intuitiveness are laudable, he is not sure of his future in ultra-conservative Manila. For sure, he'll keep moving to his own beat, refusing to change his tempo to that of the masses.

Raymundo's show is produced by Not Enough Circuses, composed of director Ariel Lozada, Michael Salientes and Yodel Pe for the "F.A.D." series. The show is on May 1, 7 p.m. at the NBC Tent. Call 714-0460.

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PROMO RUNS FROM APRIL 12 TO MAY 12, 2002 Per DTI Permit # 0659 Series of 2002

When a President goes camp

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

When a president acts more like a soap opera character than a leader, something must be wrong with a nation crazy with the transvestite-like characters on TV

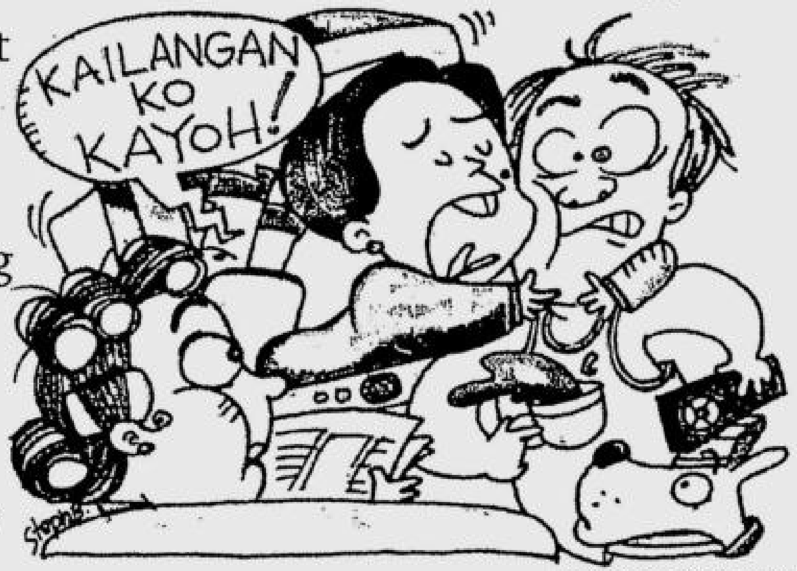


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

EVEN though it had been weeks since its premiere telecast, we still bickered and bitched about *that* historic infomercial starring "Mommy Nation" reaching out to her children for sobriety and cooperation.

Everyone had either seen or heard that monumental event in media—all of its so-many minutes culminating in a close-up with the Lady imploring, "*Kailangan ko kayo* ..." At this point we were all rolling with laughter. Coffee sputtered out of our nostrils, hee-haws redefining the level of vulgarian guffaws. This specific media joke made my favorite shrill-voiced nonactress look like Dame Judi Dench when it came to displaying thespian prowess.

We all traded comments, trying to outwit one another in abrasiveness. We all tried to figure out what got into the minds of the people behind that major media blunder to sincerely believe that the audience was actually going to buy that sort of badly scripted and ill-directed campaign. Well, not unless they were targeting that highly specialized sector of the audience still coping with lobotomy.

Then someone said, "It's all these soap operas, honey. It's because of all this campy acting devoured by millions of addicted television viewers. People in politics now believe that *that* sort of acting is the only way to go." Hmmmm... and a moment of silence. For my companion who was completely sloshed out of mind, mixing alcohol and now trying to regain her sanity with gallons of caffeine, she made a lot of sense.

Go figure

So let's leave the whys and wherefores to the sociologists. Let them explain why major networks are now running wall-to-wall-high prime-time soap operas, interlaced with high-tech game shows. And let historians try to figure out what all these data depict about our country and countrymen today. The point is that even the best and the brightest of our media performers are now swept into the *tsunami* of nonstop soap opera acting.

I was once a part of a soap opera, and let me tell you that the physical, mental, psychological and even spiritual demands of working on such a show could be compared to the training of a triathlete for the next Olympics. Soap operas are taped twice (or even thrice) a week, with working time extending... uh, as much as 26-27 straight hours. Aside from the fact that such a practice can be a disaster to your complexion—and the mind (regardless of how brilliant) has a maximum tolerance for intelligent and sensitive consciousness—making soap operas cannot possibly provide the avenue for the seasoned or aspiring performer to turn into our local versions of Cate Blanchett or Tilda Swindon.

More often than not, the genre encourages tired and tested techniques and bag-of-tricks acting approaches—ranging from very nervous ticks, eyebrows doing the rumba and the use of voice like one were performing for an early afternoon radio drama.

As a matter of fact, soap operas—because of the very nature of the genre—encourages larger than life acting. Oh, think of all those quotable quotes, all those sound bytes that make perfect 30-second trailers. Think of all the sensational twists and turns of plots, all those labyrinthine and serpentine events meant to demand audience attention and. Ergo, ratings! Think of all the grand *guignol* and posturing where the villains display enough evil to make Lucifer proud. And, worse, think of the entire menu of campy acting, a tradition straight from the 1950s and earlier but resurrected in the 21st century with utmost sincerity and conviction!

Well, yes: no one is actually vying for an Urian Award when shoved into the universe of the soap opera. The demand for suspension of disbelief is stretched to levels beyond disbelief. Logic is the least of requirements as the suffering heroes and heroines go through the meat grinder of life with all the possible permutations of bad luck, including kidnappings, explosions, car accidents, acid being thrown on faces, hired killers, mismatched babies, hidden identities and, yes, the biggest banger of them all—the secret!

Unforgettable

To this day, people can still not forget the invincibility of the character played by Princess Punzalan in one of the soaps: she was shot, pushed, pulverized, shoved into a cannon—but like an excellent Rumanian gymnast, she still landed on her feet with hands akimbo, ready for more evil action! Some assumed she must have borrowed Ramon Revilla's *anting-anting* or she was just in perfect physical determination to exhibit such stamina, resilience and determination. *Hayuuuup!*

Then, of course, there are the tragic soap opera heroines whose magnitude of heart and greatness of person are measured by their ability to cope and endure with every conceivable disaster and evildoing. And, in all cases, you'd think they'd learn enough lessons from life to stand up and fight—or beat the living daylights out of those who make their fictional lives miserable. No! True to the tradition of the genre, soap opera heroines are only expected to look beautiful when maligned—and display superhuman powers in crying.

The El Niño will never be experienced in the world of soap because the heroines are expected to abuse their tear ducts to the point of simulating another "*delubyo*." Somehow this does not say a lot about bonking the heads of the audience to make them realize you don't simply sit back and let fate molest you. The equation is quite clear: suffer but remain pretty—and all's well that ends well. After all that *pagdurusa*, you assume she paid her karma good enough for 27 past lives and the next three reincarnations. This is why she'd end up with the gorgeous leading man, completely demolish all enemies—and end up rich *and* happy. Wow! How's that for good old catharsis?

But somewhere along the line, in giving life to these people and events, camp acting seems to be the only way for achieving this brand of dramatic effectivity. Subtlety comes in the form of exclamation points. The power of the subtext is transformed to the charm of an ear-shattering scream. And worse, there are enough hams to fill up so many *noche buenas*. But who cares? And let me reemphasize that: who really cares?

As long as the level of drama is delivered, as long as the little nuggets of memorable acting moments are delivered across living rooms all over the country, who cares about good acting? Try doing your Eric Morris Actors Training program—or worse, apply the theories of Stanislavski in soap opera acting—and you can be assured you will be written out of the program right after the second commercial gap. That's not whole point here.

And so we run through all the most celebrated performers in soaps, and someone volunteers an amusing observation. He said that the two most famous soap opera vixens on prime-time TV are not women but *mga babaeng bakla*.

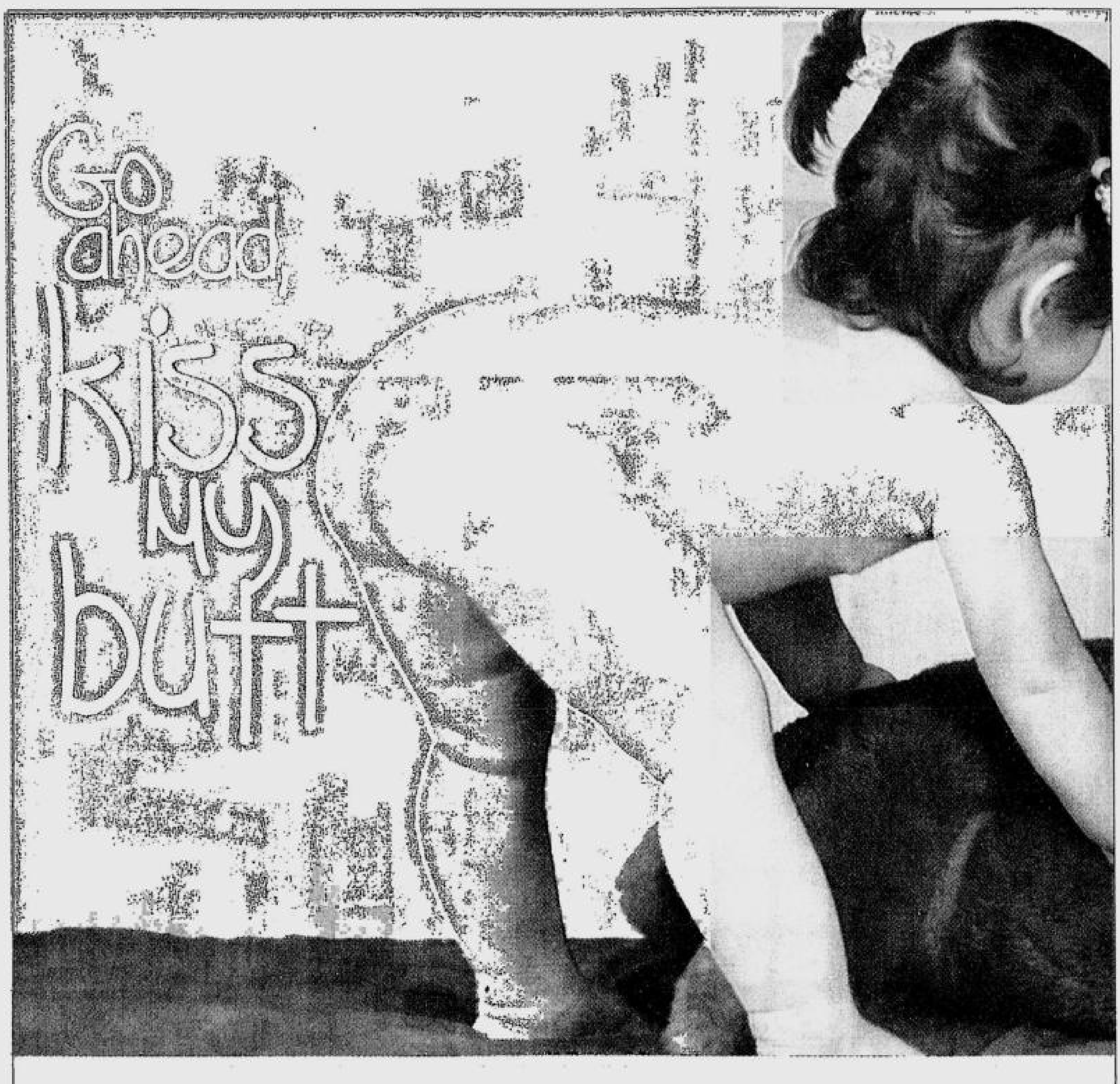
We were curious—did he mean that these celebrated icons of the moment behaved like your textbook fag hags? No, he qualified. They were not women, he said... they were behaving like transsexuals, wearing glittery gowns, enough backless dresses to give any woman terminal pneumonia and, more important, they behaved in the manner of those among us who make a living by hiding their genitals with surgical tape to fit into slinky swimsuits and cheesy fashion stage costumes.

Off-guard

We were caught off-guard for a moment, trying hard to digest the validity of this important theory. Of course, it pained some of us to think that the two most famous soap opera characters have been diminished to Pinoy transsexuals who just came back from Japan, now rich from conning Nippon *papas* with their sexuality.

But then again, on second thought—why, yes! These were not mere adaptations of Alexis and Crystal of "Dynasty": they were *Pinoy na Pinoy* personifications of femininity to the point of coagulation or constipation. No wonder all my favorite fairies are such diehard fans who dish out memorable confrontation scenes of these two characters with such gusto—and exactness! And to think before this phenomenon, these same friends of mine used to do 15-minute reenactments of their favorite scenes from the cult classic Joey Gosiengfiao movie titled "Temptation Island."

Maybe there is great truth in the presumption that soap opera has completely eschewed our idea of great acting. In an age where even newscasters seem to take workshops on internalizing roles, everyone is acting the way they deem best—if not most effective. Which brings us back to that infomercial that triggered heated debates and an entire assortment of jokes still exchanged in polite and not-so-polite situations: the things we have to go through in life, I tell you!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Aging home is ageless as ever

By Avie Gochoco-Perez
Contributor
Photos by Bobot Meru

COZY corner composed of an antique *aparador*, which displays the owner's jar collection, silver fruit bowl and table, made from lace over chintz.

THE HOME this graphic designer shares with his two sisters in New Manila, Quezon City is hardly a looker from the outside. It is so ordinary a house on an ordinary, quiet street in an old subdivision that one can drive by without noticing it. Even the greenery is ordinary.

"See if Ulay Tantoco lives there," I ask a companion gingerly.

The 40-year-old home can, indeed, be really deceiving. What is immediately visible is that the house facade has been hardly touched since it was built in the 1960s, save for a paint job.

But the outside masks the magic of the now within, the ease with which the new has been made to blend with the old: big beige tiles that gleam underfoot in place of the old granolithic: bright lemon yellow paint on the walls splashed over the mute wall of yesteryears; almost ceiling-high glass sliding doors embracing three walls of the sala where before only blank walls and a small window afforded family members a peep into the spacious, lush garden outside. The property, after all, is 1,100 sq m.

Yes, the Tantocos—originally of Bulacan—now have almost wraparound glass sliding doors in their sala that beckon to the sunshine and greenery outside. When natural light is harsh and privacy is needed, giant Roman shades in a neutral beige come rolling down the tops of the sliding doors.

"I like being in the garden, so I said, 'let's open up the house, let's bring in the garden without being too exposed,'" recalls Ulay, outlining the theme for renovation work that was done first seven years ago and again last year.

Ulay, careful to keep to his budget, had a similar fabric sewn atop the frayed sides of the 7-year-old Roman shades. Result? "New" shades. Seven years ago, the shades had replaced old curtains written off as "*mukhang* duster (looking like a house dress)." Ulay's good friend, Manny Castro, gave that verdict. His mother's taste, after all, was still very much around. She passed away only two years ago at the age of 90.

The Tantoco house, seen from above, is shaped like an angular letter O, at the center of which is an open courtyard. "Jam sessions," those dance parties held by teenagers of the '60s, were often held in that courtyard.

At a corner of the courtyard is a fountain propped over a pond, the main feature of a "rock garden" that was popular among homeowners back in the '60s. The pond used to host "lots of *tilapya* (leather jacket fish), just like in Bulacan." Ulay is pure Bulakeño. His mother—to whom he credits the building of the house—was a rice merchant from Hagonoy and his father was from Malolos. Even the garden, occupying much of the property, hosts trees that came from Bulacan: *kamias*, *kaimito*, *macopa*, *balimbing*... "*Parang* (It's like) we're still in the province. *Parang may kalakalabaw pa diyan, e* (It feels like there might yet be carabaos around)," Ulay smiles.

The fountain in the courtyard still works. A frog in concrete, bought precast from a shop along nearby E. Rodriguez Avenue around the time the house was built, still spits water into the pond when the circulating pump is turned on. The pond empties into the rock garden in the garage of this four-bedroom split-level house.

Separate space

The dining room, which perhaps the hand of modernity has touched the most in the renovation process, has been given a separate space. It is

AGING/ p.F2

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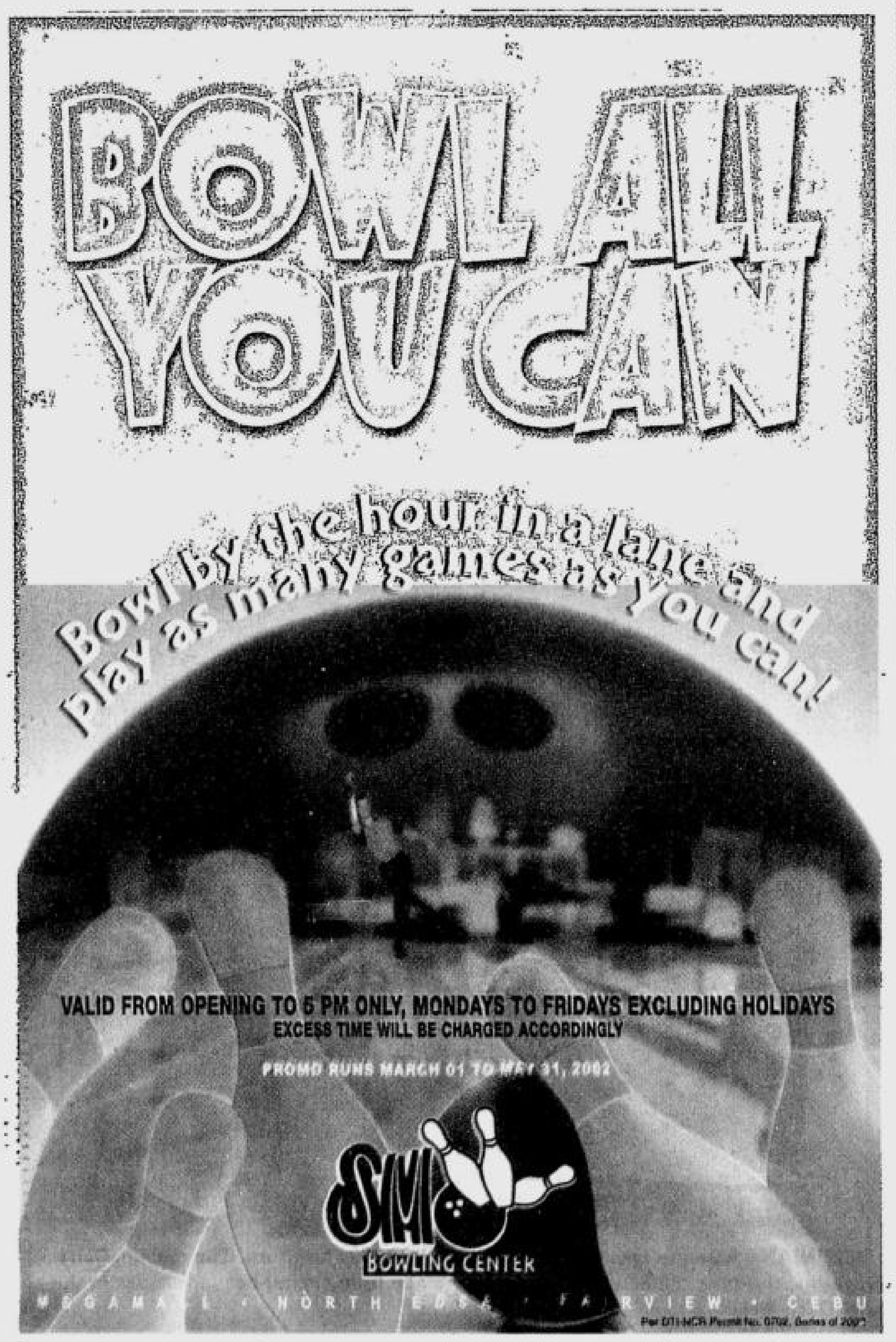

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THE LIVING room exudes an Old-World charm, made lively by pattern on pattern upholstery, potted heliconias and a ficus tree.

Aging home is ageless as ever

From page F1

Ulay Tantoco renovates his 40-year-old home with a nod to the modern and a re-affirmation of old roots

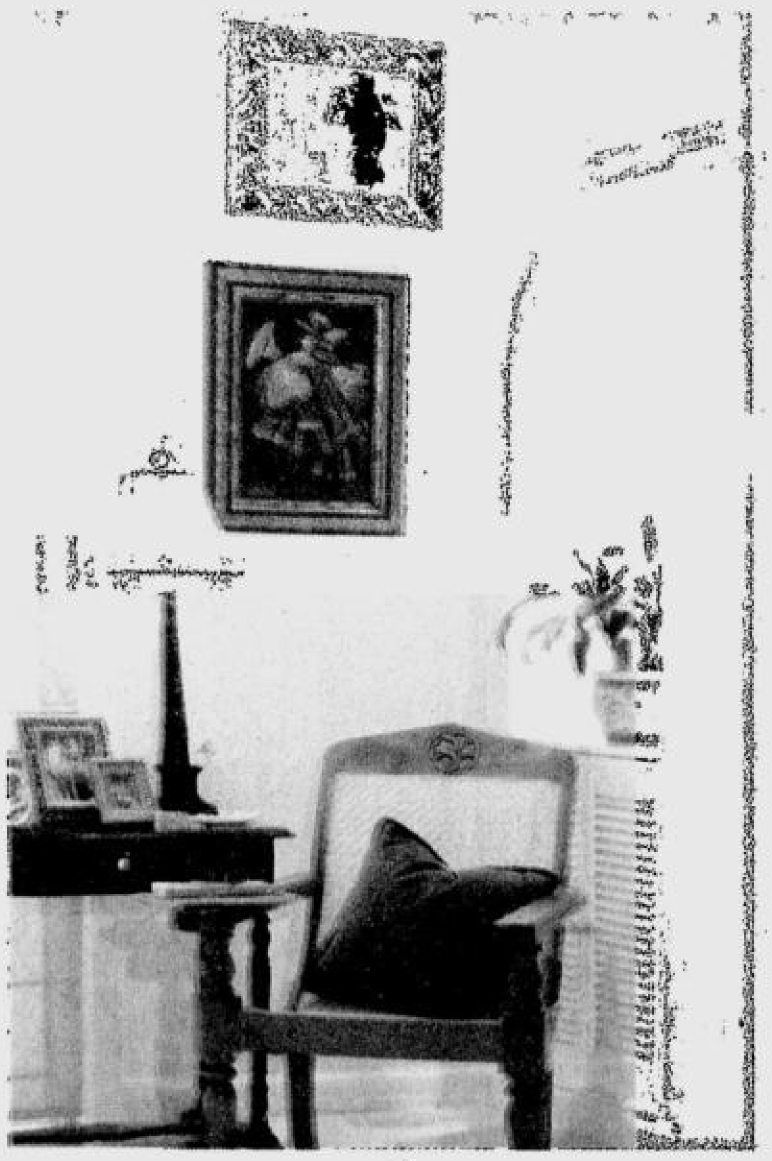
now distinct from the sala. In the past, the sala spilled into the dining room. Today, waist-high cabinets with louvered doors topped by arched niches and wooden framed glass sliding doors bar the dining from the living area. The dining room was enclosed to make way for that virtual-must of a contraption today in these tropical isles but was a great luxury in the '60s: air-conditioning.

The dining room's ceiling has been "punched up" to reveal the faintest blue sky and misty clouds, stenciled on wood. Again, one suspects, the idea is to "bring the outside in." The dining room also had to take a cut in size to give way to a powder room: homes of today seem to need one specially for guests.

But the eight-seater *narra* Baliwag dinner set is how it used to be, save for the thin cushions plopped on the seats for added comfort. At both ends of the table are two high-backed chairs with *solihiya* (woven rattan) backs and carved tops. These were some of the things Ulay's mom liked to see in her home. They have sentimental value for Ulay and his two sisters. So he has mainly kept the family's things intact and given them a new life either with a new coat of varnish or new upholstery.

The kitchen—renovated five years ago—has polished stone counterparts and shiny tiled walls. It's all modern, despite the busy presence of the Tantoco *yaya* (nanny) who has been with the family for some 40 years. Why tiled walls? "So we won't have to paint and repaint," says Ulay.

The kitchen is accessed—aside from the dining room—also from the family room without family members going from their bedrooms through the sala. "The house (design) is very clever," says Ulay, complimenting architect Alfredo Aldaba of Malolos, Bulacan.



THE ANTIQUE furniture with antique turning legs and stylized palm motifs is set beside an alcove.

THE SIDEBOARD divides the work area from the sleeping quarters.

From the glass-and-steel windows wrapping the family room, one can see how the house has weathered the times for past 40 years.

From the family room, one looks out into the courtyard where the red cement flooring has given way to tiles in a circular pattern. The fountain-cum-rock garden looks out to the gleaming aluminum and glass sliding doors on a side of the sala and dining room. An image of the Sto. Niño de Malolos, patron saint of Malolos, has its home in the family room. So does an antique image of the Virgin Mary, once owned by Ulay's grandmother.

A number of *santos* (images of saints), some in wood, others in ivory, adorn a couple of shelves in Ulay's bedroom. He started collecting the images when he was still in high school. "These are enough. I don't want so much. I'm not into accumulating things," he insists.

Two bedrooms that used to share a common bathroom have now taken a cut in size to enable each to have a toilet and bath. A red cemented walk outside the living and dining rooms has been extended and given character with the use of brown *ara-al* stones embedded on concrete. The garden is better appreciated from the enhanced space.

Touch of art

As one enters the main door and looks straight ahead, one sees a few steps leading to the bedrooms. The old railings enclosing the landing have not only been preserved, they have been given a touch of art. Interior designer Castro added fruits—*kamias*, *balimbing*, *atis*, *guyabano*, *lanzones*, mangoes, *santol*—in wrought iron to the starkly linear design and gave them a coat of paint in realistic colors. Not only did that save renovation money for Ulay, it also gave his home a touch of the unique, the fancy, and "more" of the fruits of their home in Bulacan.

What Ulay did not want in the renovation was a change in the essence of the architecture. "I didn't want it changed because that's the house. We just put on a new coat and repaired parts. I think it's still charming," he smiles contentedly.

The Tantoco home is a model in renovation with the discipline of respecting and just enhancing what you already have and spending only on the real musts. Castro said "more than 50 percent of the furniture Ulay had was already interesting," including the heirloom *narra aparador* (wardrobe) by the main door, the *eskritoryo* (writing table), the Baliwag dining set, even a two-seater sofa.

Thus, "it was just a matter of rearranging and just adding a few pieces to enhance" the overall look. A couch was purchased and clothed in large paisley printed fabric. A *solihiya* coffee table was bought to match it. Both were set in the diagonal to give guests a ready view of the garden through the glass sliding doors. The atmosphere created feels casual-traditional.

Old style, *hacienda*-type fans hanging from the ceiling help circulate air in the sala.

Prized art on the walls is sparse. Ulay has an H.R. Ocampo only because "a friend was disposing" the work, and two framed pen-and-ink small drawings of favorite churches in Iloilo and Cebu accent a wall. "My only prized possession in this living room is a work in acrylic by Lito Carating," he says.

Indeed. Ask Ulay where his favorite spot in the house is, he'll point to a far corner of the living room just where the louvered cabinets separate the sala from the dining room.

In that corner is a *butaka* or *hacienda* chair where he likes to sit in the mornings to read the day's papers. From there, he sees the entire stretch of the sala laid out before him. It is a good vantage point from which to fully appreciate home's comforts.

Ulay is comfortable at home. It is, yes, all of 40 years old, but as young at hearth as any half its age. He has tamed the termites, he has refashioned parts of the space in his home to keep up with today's lifestyle, and yes, he has let the flowers bloom and the trees bear fruit in the garden.

So who says 40 is old? The outer shell can be deceiving.

FILIPINIANA baroque furniture complements the '50s furniture. The moldings and cornices, the cove ceiling with a chandelier made from crystal-beaded shapes evoke an Art Deco feeling.

Seminar-workshop on voice image

THE CORPORATE Mind Management Consultancy and Executive Training Co. and the Josephine Gomez Clinic for Voice Therapy and Rehabilitation present the "2002 Edition of the Voice Image" seminar-workshop on April 21 at the Summit Lounge, Manila Galleria Suites, ADB Avenue, Pasig City.

GOINGS ON

SUMMER WORKSHOP. The PWU-Totalle Wellness and Fitness Center holds its 6th Children's Summer Workshop 2002. Programs include swimming (all categories), martial arts, painting, cartoon drawing, sketching, voice lessons, guitar, violin, piano lessons, yoga and meditation, baking, ballet, jazz, modern and Hawaiian dance. Registration is ongoing. Call 524-2609, 526-8421 local 142.

ANNUAL FAIR. The Peninsula Manila, with events organizer Rita Neri of The Wedding Store, holds its annual fair dubbed "Events at The Pen 2002" on May 24-25.
The event is a reprise of the highly successful events fair held in 2001 featuring the best and exclusive corporate and social event organizers and planners in the Philippines. Call The Peninsula Manila at 887-2888 local 2236 and 2914 or The Wedding Store at 893-0534 or 840-1897.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES. The Liberty Center on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City presents "Summerscapades," a fusion of indoor and outdoor activities.
Tomorrow, a bubble show, a kaleidoscope of bubbles showcasing different bubble tricks, will be held. Kiddie summer games await kids plus free face painting.

KIDDIE FAIR. Shangri-La Plaza presents a series of kiddie activities guaranteed to make summer for little tots productive and worthwhile.
Tomorrow, pianist Chloe Borromeo Canton will perform a number of familiar classical pieces from Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin and Gershwin as well as Filipino folksongs at the Grand Atrium, 4-5 p.m. Simultaneous with Canton's recital is the third birthday celebration of Cinnzeo on Level 4 where kids get to hear storytelling sessions and enjoy cinnamon delights.
On April 21 and 27, Trumpets Playshop will showcase its talents in a musical show at the Grand Atrium, while the Effie Nañas School of Classical Ballet will perform well-loved ballet numbers.
Until April 16, kids can catch cartoonist Ton Ton Young in an exhibit at the mall's Level 2, Phase 2 (near Crossings).
Free admission. Call 633-7851 to 70 local 151 and 109.

CONCERT. "Concert Nights at the Old Walls" presents "A Bit of America in Intramuros," a program of Broadway songs at the Baluarte de San Andres tomorrow, 6 p.m. Admission is free. Call 523-5385.

SEMINAR. The Adoptive Families Foundation (AFF), a resource and support group for Philippine adoptive families, holds a parenting seminar, "PG (Parental Guidance) for Your Adopted Child," on April 27, 1:30-5:30 p.m., at The Park located in the administration building of San Lorenzo Village, near Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City. The seminar will help adoptive parents learn how to discuss adoption with their children through their growing up years. Call the AFF at 421-1223.

BAZAAR. Big Horn, with Pepsi, holds a grand summer bazaar on April 20 and 21, 10 a.m. onward, at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, QC. The bazaar have a wide variety of products for sale at rock-bottom prices—from novelties, home accessories and décors, cosmetics, shoes, bags, garments and even brand-new cars. Beneficiary is the Silbi Libis project of the parish. Call 438-9352.

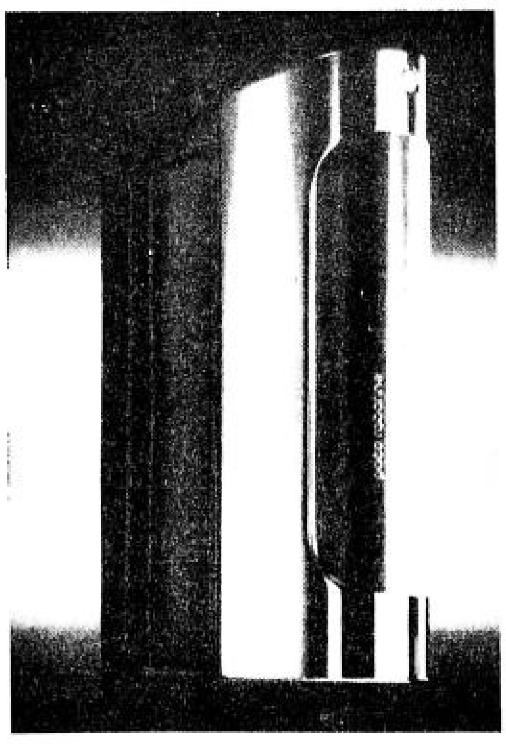
WORKSHOP. The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists holds a seminar-workshop on May 9-11 at the Corregidor Hotel and Resort, Corregidor Island, Cavite. The theme is "Global Impact of Libraries and Information Professionals in a Changing Environment."
Call 724-1994, 527-9672, 891-0307, 416-3587 and 932-1295.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY. The Malabon International Baptist Church celebrates its 25th founding anniversary on April 28 with the theme "United We Grow, Together We Go." Rev. Dr. Pio S. Tica, senior pastor, with the pastoral staff and deacons, have lined up activities for the silver anniversary celebration: the academy's alumni homecoming tomorrow; an evangelistic "God Is Love" crusade from April 24-26, p.m.; a worship celebration on April 27, 9 a.m., with Dr. Jim Norton of Michigan, USA, as guest speaker; a thanksgiving banquet on April 28, 5 p.m., at Jade Valley restaurant, Timog Avenue; free medical mission on May 4, 8 a.m.; summer camp at Highlands Camp, Iba, Zambales May 6-10; and the 4th Mother's Day food-tasting event on May 18, 10 a.m. All the activities will take place at Malabon International Baptist Church, 6 Ma. Clara St., Acacia, Malabon City. MIBC will also launch its silver anniversary yearbook and memorabilia on April 28. Call 288-1070 or 288-8274.

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES. The Office of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Museo Pambata, Manila Zoo and the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Manila join hands to celebrate Earth Day tomorrow with a program titled "I Care (For the Earth) Day." The whole-day affair at the Manila Zoo starts at 9 a.m. and is expected to gather some 500 children from various Manila barangays. Call 523-1797 to 98.

CONTEST. The Concerned Citizens Against Pollution presents "Earthday on-the-spot Art Contest" on April 21 on Arroceros Street, Manila as part of the International Earth Day celebration. Registration is ongoing. Call 633-7198.

New fragrance for active men



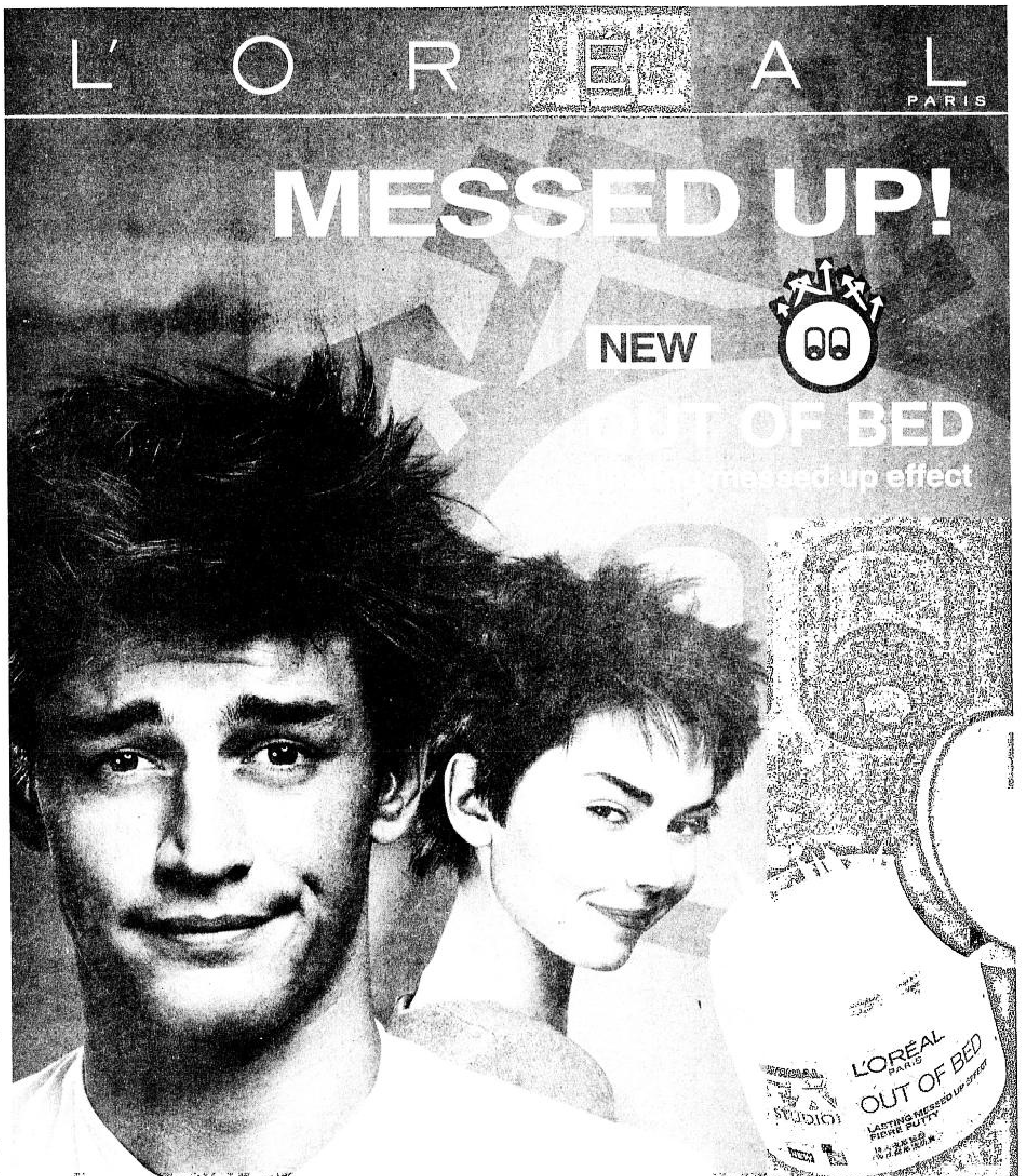
IT all began with the birth of Ultraviolet Woman, a transition to the Age of Aquarius, an era that will belong to a woman who shines, a woman whose femininity will sweep the entire globe. These qualities have been captured in a fragrance that is Oriental, fresh and sensual, whose bottle and aura bespeak the dreams and desires of tomorrow's women.

Now, Paco Rabanne introduces a new fragrance for the new generation of men called Ultraviolet Man. This fragrance is created for the active men. A scent with combined mixture of ambergris, reality and virtuality. Ambergris exudes a woody, powdery odor, which evokes a combination of strength and gentleness, power and transparency.

Ultraviolet Man is available in two fragrance bottle sizes Edt spray 50 ml (P2,200) and Edt spray 100 ml (P2,850) plus skin-care treatment for men, antistress after-shave splash (P1,550) and deodorant stick 75 g (P1,000).

Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp.

DAPPER ORGANIZER. Samsonite, the world's leading luggage specialist, has created the 900 Series Fiorano. It is made of full-grain cowhide leather that gives it an elegant look as well as netting pocket made of very fine threads that are woven together so it's easy to see the contents inside. The 900 Series also features pockets designed to hold a mobile phone and even a Palm V. Moreover, it features a Velcro patch, elastic and retractable loops for increased convenience and a symmetrical design that's perfect for both left- and right-handed travelers. Samsonite is available at The Travel Club and at the luggage sections of Duty Free Phils., The Landmark, SM, Robinsons and Rustan's.



PICK A CARD

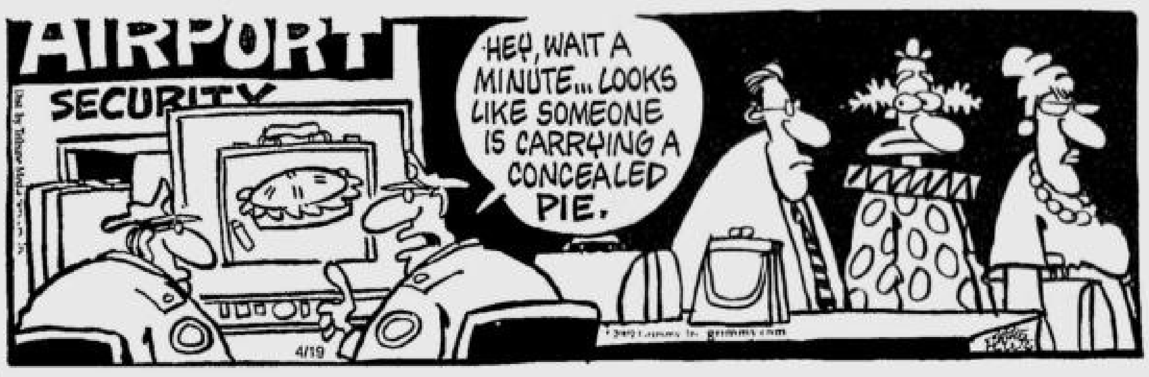
Get a chance to win a free cellcard worth ₱300 with every purchase of any Studio Styling product from Apr 1 to May 15.

Watsons Makati Dept. Store • Watsons Megamall Dept. Store • Watsons Cubao Dept. Store • Watsons YMCA-Manila Dept. Store • Watsons Davao Dept. Store • Watsons Mandurriao-Iloilo Dept. Store • SM Cebu Dept. Store • Landmark • Robinsons Galleria • Cinderella Megamall • Mercury Glorietta • Rustan's Tower • Shopwise Alabang • Gaisano Metro Ayala • JS Gaisano Citimall Davao

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 02..., S.2002

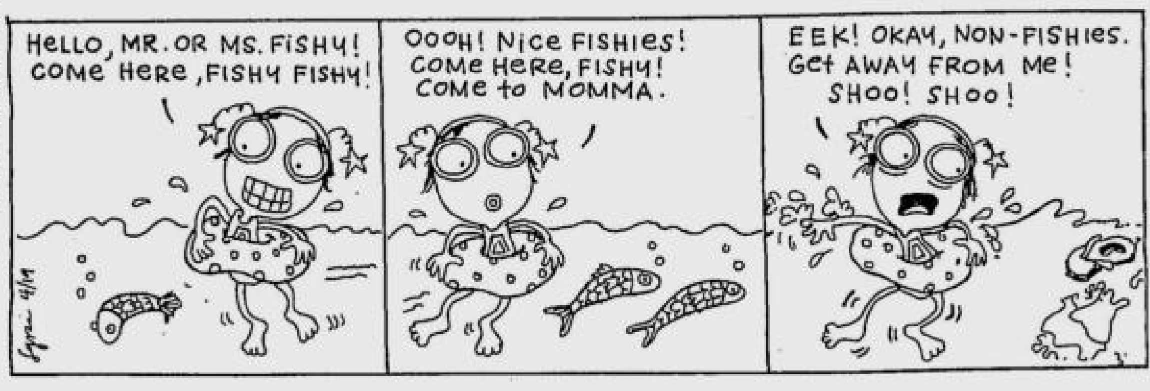
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


AIRPORT
SECURITY
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE... LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS CARRYING A CONCEALED PIE.
4/19

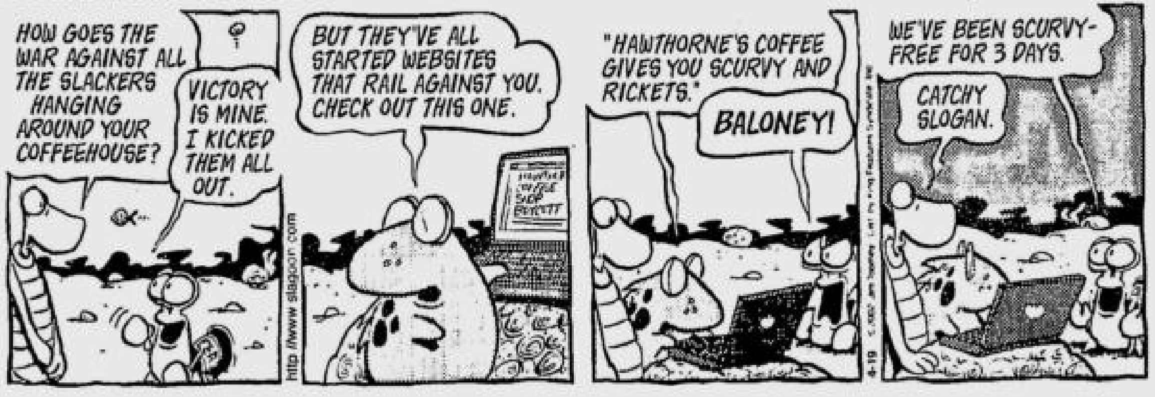
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HELLO, MR. OR MS. FISHY! COME HERE, FISHY FISHY!
OOOH! NICE FISHIES! COME HERE, FISHY! COME TO MOMMA.
EEK! OKAY, NON-FISHIES. GET AWAY FROM ME! SHOO! SHOO!

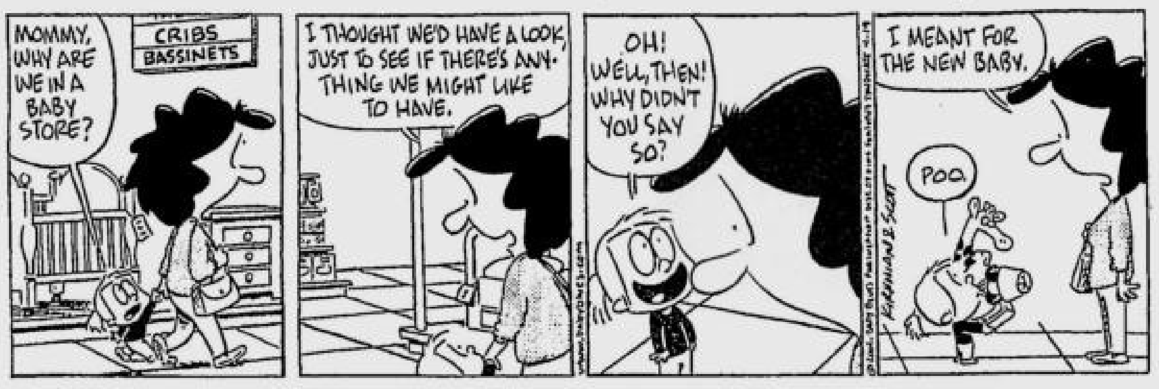
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HOW GOES THE WAR AGAINST ALL THE SLACKERS HANGING AROUND YOUR COFFEEHOUSE?
VICTORY IS MINE. I KICKED THEM ALL OUT.
BUT THEY'VE ALL STARTED WEBSITES THAT RAIL AGAINST YOU. CHECK OUT THIS ONE.
"HAWTHORNE'S COFFEE GIVES YOU SCURVY AND RICKETS."
BALONEY!
WE'VE BEEN SCURVY-FREE FOR 3 DAYS.
CATCHY SLOGAN.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY, WHY ARE WE IN A BABY STORE?
CRIBS
BASSINETS
I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A LOOK, JUST TO SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE MIGHT LIKE TO HAVE.
OH! WELL, THEN! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
I MEANT FOR THE NEW BABY.
POO

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paloma Picasso, Dudley Moore, Kate Hudson, Ashley Judd

Happy Birthday: You will have insight into matters pertaining to work this year. You mustn't let personal problems interfere with your job. Sudden changes will take place with regard to your likes and dislikes. You can do well investing in art objects or in items that have the potential to grow in value. Your numbers are 10, 14, 26, 34, 37, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may not assess a situation properly. Do not jump too quickly when it comes to personal investments. Joint ventures will fall short of your expectations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You should be thinking about taking a mini vacation. Your friends will be ready to take off at short notice. The more spontaneous you are the better.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You should be intent on making changes to your career. If you focus on what you enjoy doing you will end up in a job that is satisfying. It's never too late to take courses that will give you new skills.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do not overindulge today. Self-improvement projects will help you stay on track. You can accomplish a great deal if you work on creative hobbies.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Disagreements with authority figures will set you off. Try hard not to instigate unnecessary friction or you may find yourself in a bit of a dilemma. Work at home and you will get the most done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let anyone take advantage of you. If someone has a sob story listen but don't give handouts. You can do far more for others by giving sound advice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There will be lots of action at your house. Open your doors to people that you find interesting. You will learn if you listen to the experiences that others have encountered.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The more you do with others the more you will discover about yourself. You will be in the mood for romance so be sure to make plans that will satisfy your needs. The more challenging an event you attend the more you will like it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have the opportunity to come into some money today. Make some changes to your portfolio and you will make gains.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may not understand why you feel the way you do today. Don't fight it; let your feelings be known. You may have to make difficult changes.

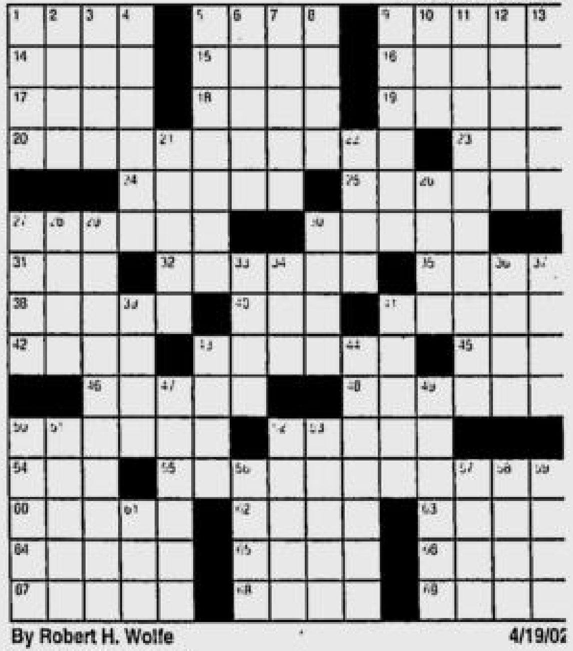
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on yourself, your health and your emotional well-being today. Get with the program and figure out what will work best for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel will be quite informative. Greater opportunities for partnerships will evolve if you engage in social activities or educational pursuits. Attend a convention and opportunities will develop.

Birthday Baby: You will be very serious about your future. You will put your work above everything else in life. You will be responsible and will always look out for the ones you love. You will have strong feelings when it comes to your beliefs and attitudes.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

4/19/02

ACROSS

1 Norwegian saint
5 Disney frames
9 Ready for the pitch
14 Skin pit
15 Hand-cream additive
16 Clear the stubble
17 Usage charge
18 Roof material
19 Beginners
20 Ranch owner?
23 Zip
24 Rampages
25 Greek letter
27 Runner-up
30 Louisiana backwater
31 Memorable time
32 Comic Buster
35 Excursion
38 Humorous
40 __ sequitur
41 Use a thurible
42 Adam's youngest son
43 Grievously
45 Fraternal group member
46 Give the game away
48 Menu item
50 Act parts
52 Skirt
54 Bowlike object
55 Ranch grassland seeker?
60 Make an exit
62 India tourist stop
63 Continental prefix
64 Map collection
65 Squealed
66 Scottish caps
67 Silt formation
68 Joyce Kilmer subject
69 Bump off

DOWN

1 Makes up one's mind
2 Spoils taken
3 Woody's son
4 Trademark fastener
5 Part of CRT
6 Founder of "The Criterion"
7 Loafs about
8 Parakeet staple
9 Off the path
10 Your of yore
11 Ranch arsonist?
12 Head off
13 Magnetic unit
21 Strikingly unconventional
22 Zeal
26 Small speck
27 Puts in a hem
28 Great Lake
29 Ranch audition?
30 Fibula or tibia
33 Erelong
34 Rocky outcrop
36 Man or Capri
37 Lapdog, briefly
39 At that time
41 Singer Lauper
43 Sammy of baseball
44 Foliage
47 Singer Brewer
49 Principles
50 Three-bean or garden
51 Mediterranean island
52 Samantha of "The Collector"
53 Captain Nemo's creator
56 Anti-Tweed cartoonist
57 Twofold
58 Columnist Bombeck
59 Chipper
61 Brewer's tub

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	U	M	A	C	■	H	A	S	P	■	E	M	M	A
A	R	O	M	A	■	E	D	N	A	■	N	O	E	L
O	N	I	O	N	■	R	E	A	P	■	R	O	M	E
■	■	■	S	T	R	O	N	G	A	S	A	N	O	X
B	A	D	■	I	O	N	■	■	Y	A	P	■	■	■
O	C	E	A	N	S	■	E	L	A	S	T	I	C	S
B	O	L	D	A	S	B	R	A	S	S	■	G	O	O
B	R	I	E	■	■	E	O	N	■	■	A	N	N	A
I	N	S	■	H	A	R	D	A	S	A	R	O	C	K
E	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	■	A	C	C	R	U	E
■	■	■	E	S	T	■	■	F	R	O	■	E	R	R
T	O	U	G	H	A	S	N	A	I	L	S	■	■	■
E	L	S	E	■	C	O	O	S	■	Y	E	A	S	T
M	I	E	N	■	I	S	N	T	■	T	A	S	T	E
P	O	R	T	■	D	O	E	S	■	E	T	H	Y	L

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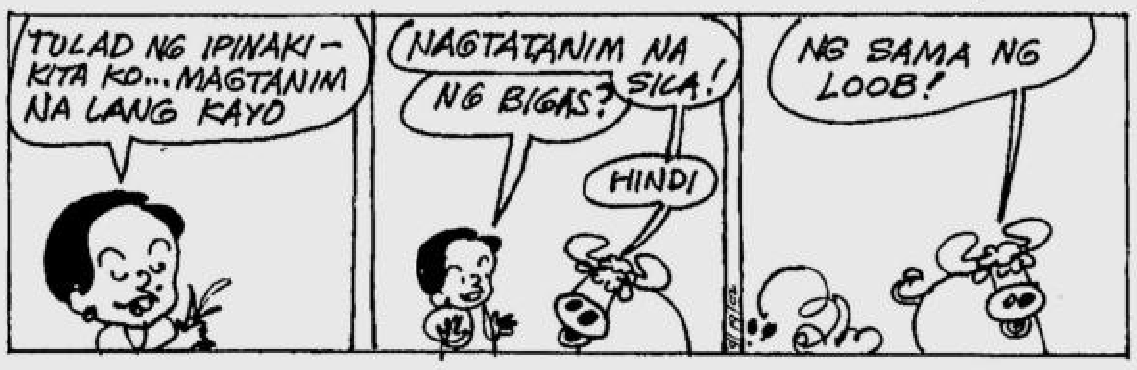
4/18/0

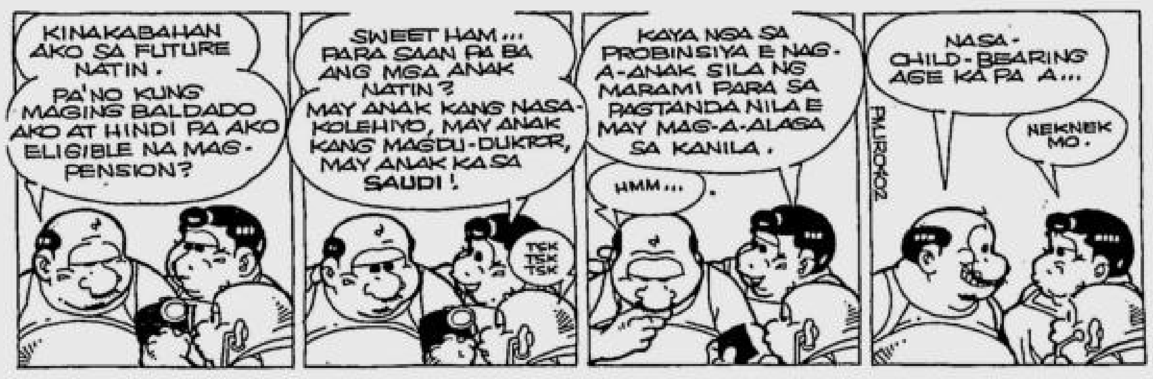
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TULAD NG IPINAKIKITA KO... MAGTANIM NA LANG KAYO
NAGTATANIM NA SILA!
NG BIGAS?
HINDI
NG SAMA NG LOOB!

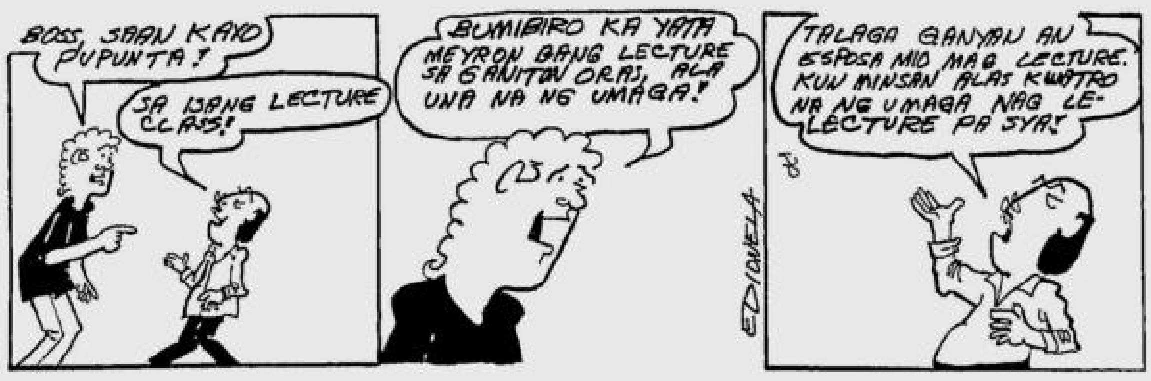
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KINAKABAHAN AKO SA FUTURE NATIN.
PA'NO KUNG MAGING BALDADO AKO AT HINDI PA AKO ELIGIBLE NA MAG-PENSION?
SWEET HAM... PARA SAAN PA BA ANG MGA ANAK NATIN?
MAY ANAK KANG NASA-KOLEHIYO, MAY ANAK KANG MAGDU-DUKTOR, MAY ANAK KA SA SAUDI!
TSK TSK TSK
KAYA NGA SA PROBINSIYA E NAG-A-ANAK SILA NG MARAMI PARA SA PAGTANDA NILA E MAY MAG-A-ALAGA SA KANILA.
HMM...
NASA-CHILD-BEARING AGE KA PA A...
NEKNEK MO.
PMJR04/02

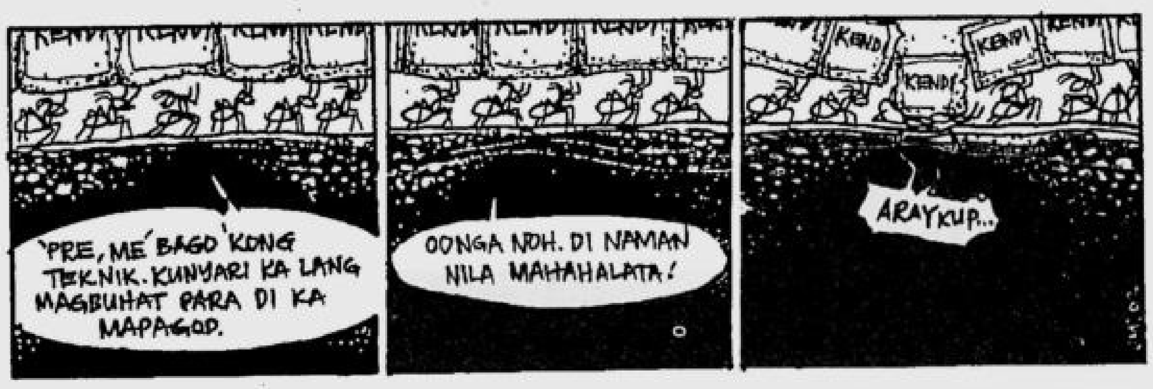
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BOSS, SAAN KAYO PUPUNTA?
SA ISANG LECTURE CLASS!
BUMIBIRO KA YATA MEYRON BANG LECTURE SA GANITONG ORAS, ALA UNA NA NG UMAGA!
TALAGA GANYAN AN ESPOSA MIO MAG LECTURE. KUN MINSAN ALAS KWATRO NA NG UMAGA NAG LE-LECTURE PA SYA!
EDIONELA

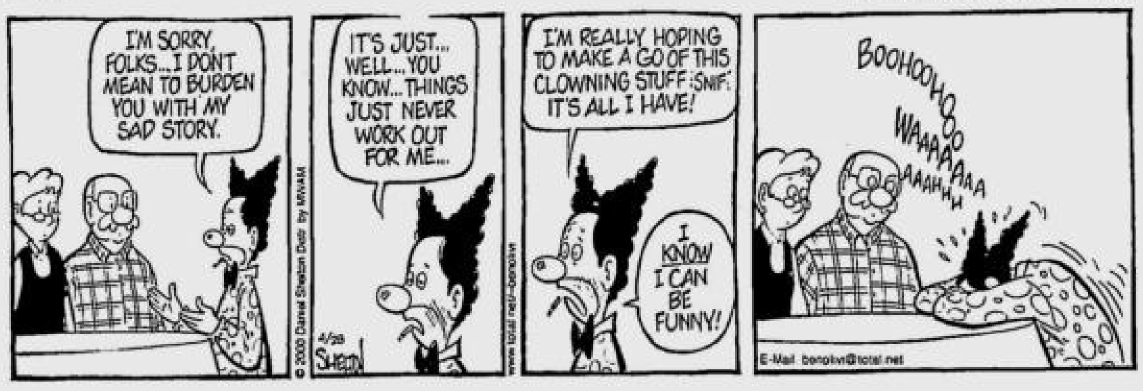
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KENDI
'PRE, ME BAGO KONG TEKNIK. KUNYARI KA LANG MAGBUHAT PARA DI KA MAPAGOD.
OONGA NOH. DI NAMAN NILA MAHAHALATA!
ARAYKUP...

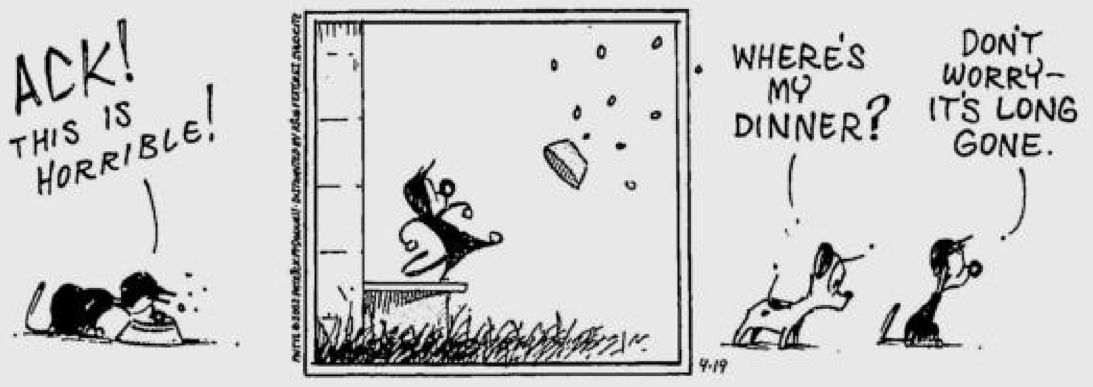
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M SORRY, FOLKS... I DON'T MEAN TO BURDEN YOU WITH MY SAD STORY.
IT'S JUST... WELL... YOU KNOW... THINGS JUST NEVER WORK OUT FOR ME...
I'M REALLY HOPING TO MAKE A GO OF THIS CLOWNING STUFF :SNIF: IT'S ALL I HAVE!
I KNOW I CAN BE FUNNY!
BOOHOOHOOO WAAAAAAAA AAAHHH
© 2000 Daniel Shelton Dist. by MNAM
E-Mail bonokvi@total.net

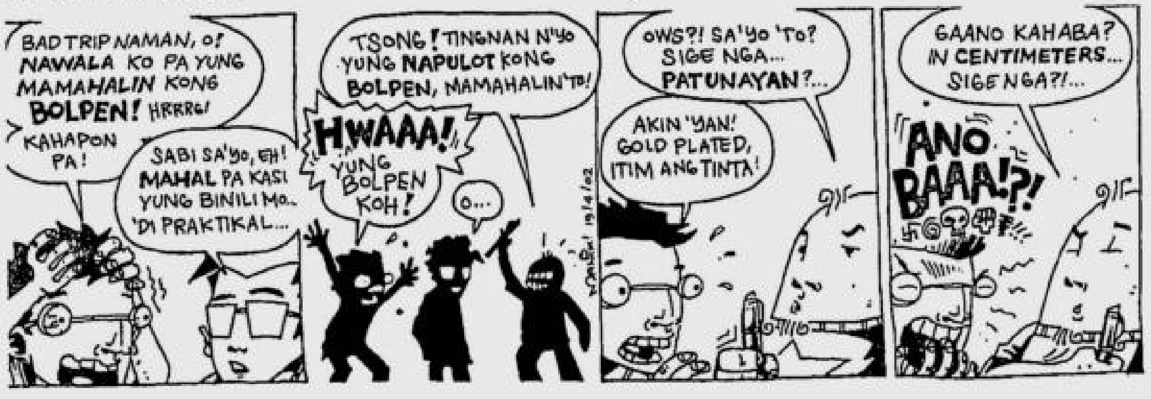
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ACK! THIS IS HORRIBLE!
WHERE'S MY DINNER?
DON'T WORRY— IT'S LONG GONE.
4-19

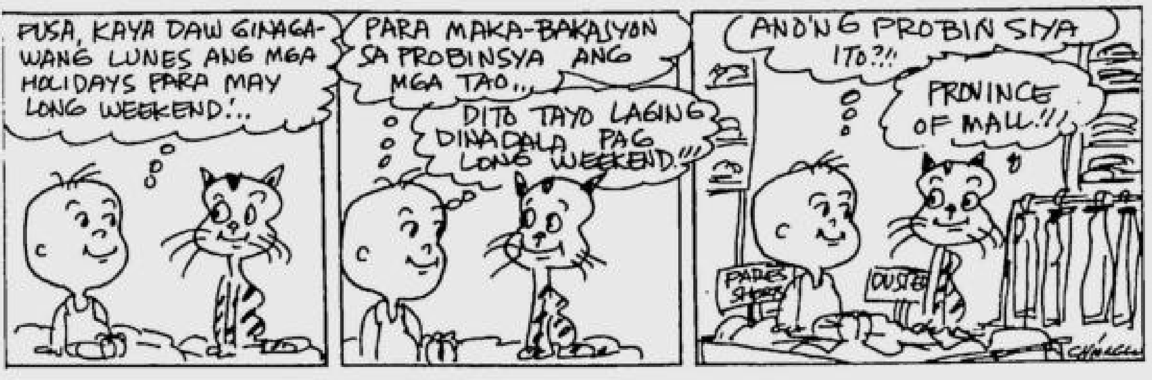
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


BADTRIP NAMAN, O! NAWALA KO PA YUNG MAMAHALIN KONG BOLPEN! HRRRG!
KAHAPON PA!
SABI SA'YO, EH! MAHAL PA KASI YUNG BINILI MO.. 'DI PRAKTIKAL...
HWAAA!
YUNG BOLPEN KOH!
TSONG! TINGNAN N'YO YUNG NAPULOT KONG BOLPEN, MAMAHALIN 'TO!
O...
OWS?! SA'YO 'TO? SIGE NGA... PATUNAYAN?...
AKIN 'YAN! GOLD PLATED, ITIM ANG TINTA!
GAANO KAHABA? IN CENTIMETERS... SIGE NGA?!...
ANO BAAA!?!

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, KAYA DAW GINAGAWANG LUNES ANG MGA HOLIDAYS PARA MAY LONG WEEKEND!...
PARA MAKA-BAKASYON SA PROBINSYA ANG MGA TAO...
DITO TAYO LAGING DINADALA PAG LONG WEEKEND!!!
AND'NG PROBINSYA ITO?!!
PROVINCE OF MALL!!!
PARES SHOES
OUSTER
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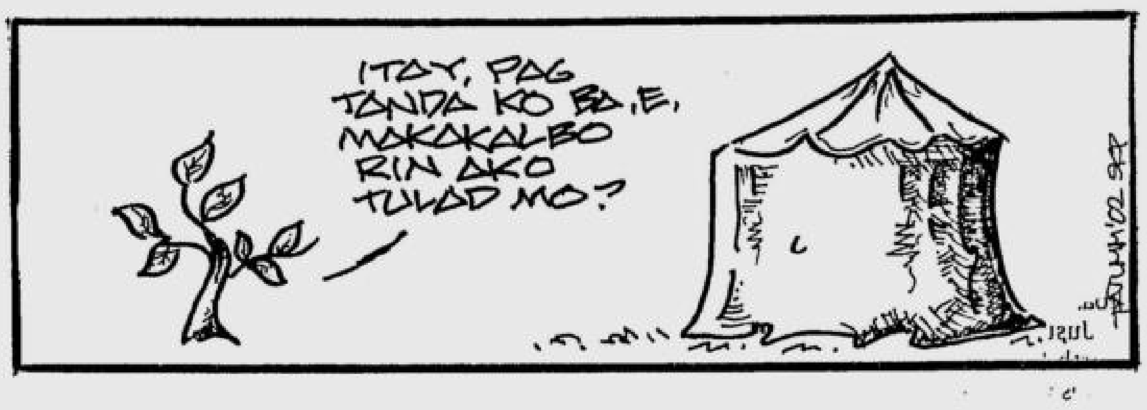
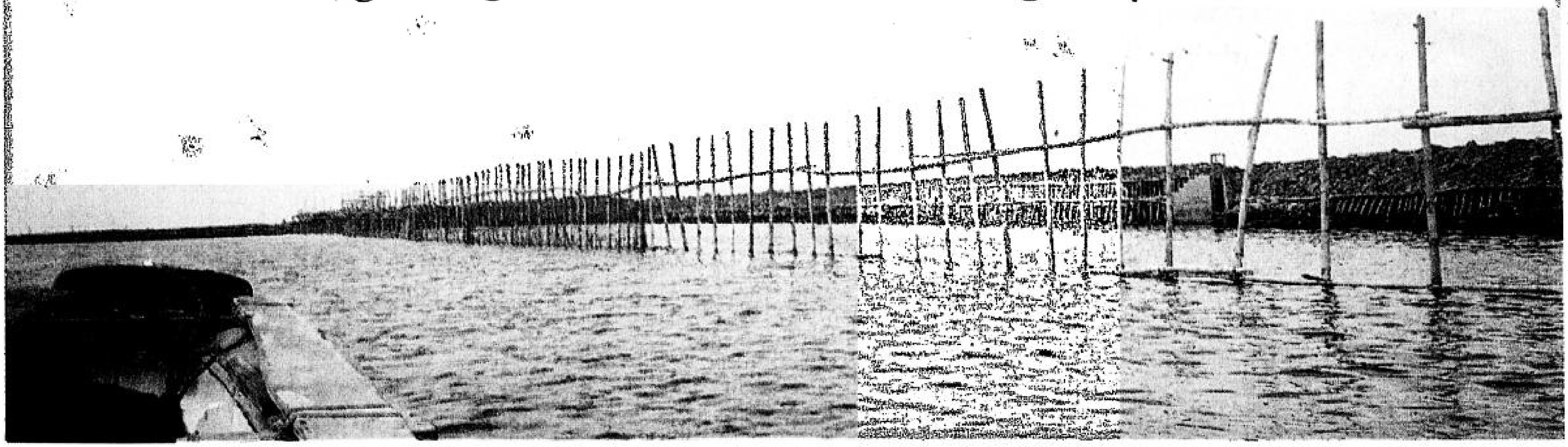

ITAY, PAG TANDA KO BA, E, MAKAKALBO RIN AKO TULAD MO?

Illegal cages cause fish kill in Hagonoy River



FISH cages at the mouth of Labangan Channel, just off Manila Bay. Bamboo poles are covered with fine mesh preventing fish or water to pass back and forth freely from the sea to Hagonoy River in Bulacan.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

EVERY year in April, business consultant and environmentalist Luis T. Arriola sets a goal for his group to achieve as part of the Earth Day observance. This year, Arriola, who is president of Earth Centre, a 12-year-old environmental NGO, has taken up the problem of illegal fish cages in the Hagonoy River in Bulacan.

From what he has learned of the problem, the cages are owned by only one or two people, and though the "small" fishermen are clearly getting an unfair deal from that system, no one wants to talk. Arriola fears the fisherfolk may be feeling intimidated by their more powerful counterparts.

Whether they voice out their complaints or not, however, the big problem remains—the fish cages are causing most, if not all, of the fish kills experienced in Hagonoy River. And that is a more far-reaching problem for it involves the fish supply in surrounding areas, including Manila. The fish kills in Hagonoy River, observes Arriola, are much like those occurring in Bolinao, Pangasinan, and the fear is that those responsible are one and the same.

What is alarming, says Arriola who has made ocular visits to that river, is that the fish cages are so long and wide (on the average, 300 meters wide and 500 to 1,000 meters long) that even though there may be only seven of them installed, they are enough to wreak havoc to the river and the fish.

Fish cages, fish pens

Fish cages and fish pens are often identical in structure. The main difference is their location. While fish pens are scattered around the river, fish cages are installed at the mouth of the river, in this instance Labangan Channel, that leads to the sea or specifically, Manila Bay. This is done so that whoever owns the cages gets first crack at the incoming fish.

Each fish cage in Hagonoy River is made of a long stretch of bamboo poles covered with mesh so fine, the water to and from the sea can hardly flow through. In the natural order of things, water should flow back and forth the channel and the Hagonoy River freely. What happens instead is that the water containing fish fry, algae and other important microorganisms passing through the cages is prevented from flowing out. What returns to the channel is polluted water, some of it released by the fish pens along the river. What flows back to the river is so polluted and lacking in oxygen, that the fish caught in it suffocate and are swept to shore dead. That, in the simplest terms, is how fish kills happen.

When one comes right down to it, notes Arriola, the only real beneficiaries of the system are the few who own the fish cages. And yet, they've hardly made investments on their enterprise. They didn't have to dig for clean water, or buy fish fry, or food for the fry since they got all these for free.

But the grim facts remain. Just two months ago, fish kill data reported 3,000 metric tons (or 2 million kg) of *bangus* lost through the system. And every so often, media report on more fish kill incidents. Last March alone, massive fish kills were reported in Dagupan. In Bolinao, Pangasinan, environmental activists have appealed to the Bolinao Fishpens/Cages Operators Association to help repair the damage its members have caused the environment. The environmentalists noted that while the fish cage/pen industry has contributed to the economy, it has also led "to the degradation of coastal waters in the aquaculture area." We are left to sort out what is more important—the short term or long term consideration.

Arriola and his Earth Centre have sent letters to Secretary Heherson Alvarez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Director Malcolm Sarmiento of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, calling their attention to the problems of fish kills and fish cages in the country's coastal waters. Neither has replied as yet.

Just the same, Arriola hopes that, come Earth Day on April 22, those harmful fish cages will have been dismantled.

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- Rhythmic Backlight Alert
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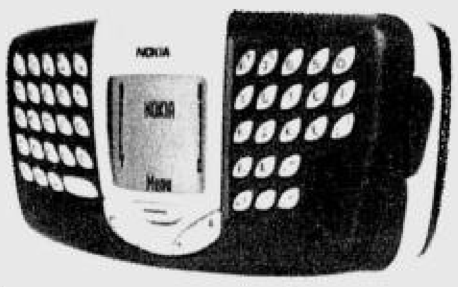

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Gardens of Porta Verde

By Cathy Saldana-Nolido
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

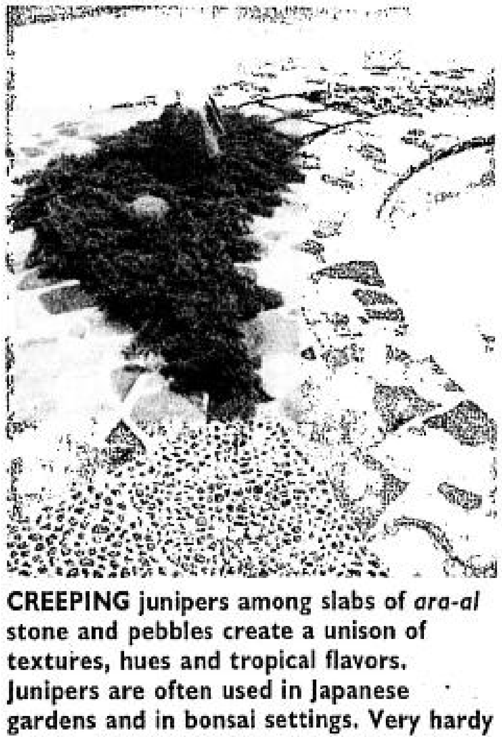
CHAMPAGNE palms and bromeliads from the pineapple family find their home in the gentle embrace of river rocks and Asian-inspired lamps.

A TROPICAL garden basks in the majesty of sunlight, flourishes in the humidity and "showers" in rainwater several months of the year. Its appearance shifts from the dullness of dried leaves to the lushness of verdant leaves, palms, flowering orchids and plants. Gardens in temperate countries, on the other hand, change as the seasons come and go, adapting as winter turns to spring, and as summer gives way to fall.

In the hills south of Caliraya in Cavinti, Laguna, a tropical garden blends naturally with a villa bathed in the colors of the earth and the

GARDENS/ p.G2

MORE *sanseverias* are planted beside river rocks and monolith boulders. The garden lamps are well-placed for safety, aesthetics and security. Interestingly enough, the *sanseverias* are commonly known as "mother-in-law's tongue." Mindoro stone slabs and gravel are loosely interspersed with *travieza* of *molave*.



CREEPING junipers among slabs of *ara-al* stone and pebbles create a unison of textures, hues and tropical flavors. Junipers are often used in Japanese gardens and in bonsai settings. Very hardy plants, their tropical element allows them to take extreme heat.

A CLUSTER of Buddha belly bamboo arrangements are in a corner. Found mostly in Asian gardens, these are small-sized bamboo plants now blending with crotons and a solitary *ficus sumatra* that may be formed into a topiary as it grows in lushness. *Travieza* and stone slabs define the surfaces.

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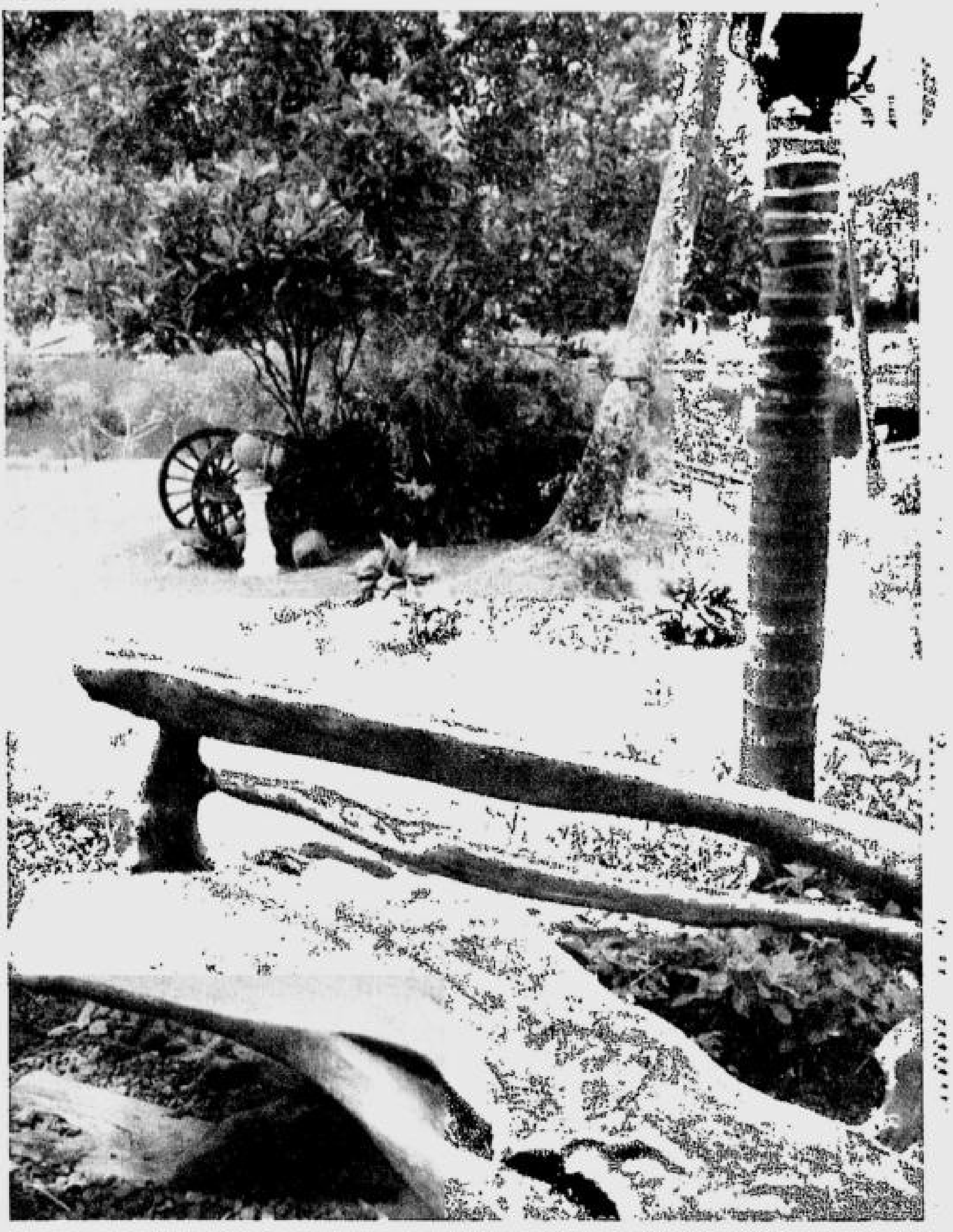
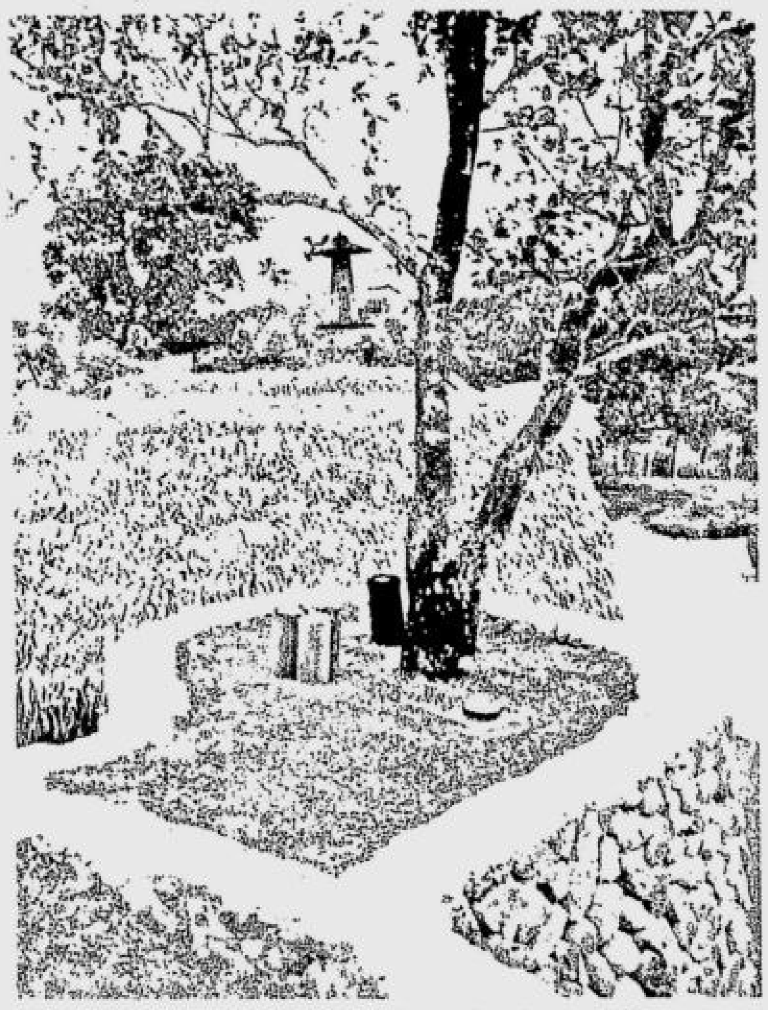
THE GOLDEN *vietcha* perches beside the stairs, its silhouette glowing with the summer sky.

CONCRETE slabs in sinuous forms and river boulders, with creeping peanuts, are anchored with the well-tended grass.

AN OLD *calesa* (horse-drawn carriage) and a *molave* wood furniture shaped in organic forms are supreme points of solitude. Coconut palms and *ficus* trees complete the tropical ambience in this corner by the side of the villa.





THE THATCHED roof of the cabanas by the poolside seem to contrast in texture with the stone rip-rap and logs placed as a meditative spot. A birdhouse hangs from the branches with gleeful spirit. Such garden accents complete the strolling experience.

Gardens of Porta Verde

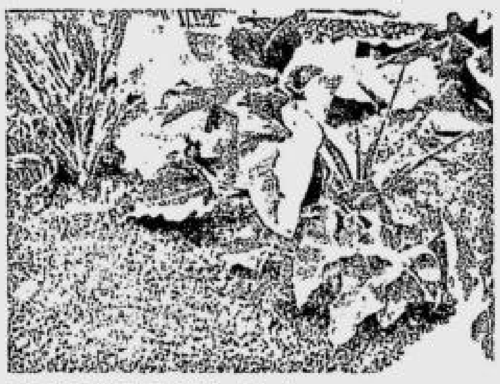
From page G1

sun. Stretched in an area of a hectare and a half, the garden rolls with the natural terrain, enhanced by river boulders strategically placed along the slopes of the hillside property. The landscape defines the architecture of this leisure-spot called Porta Verde, the gateway to greenery.

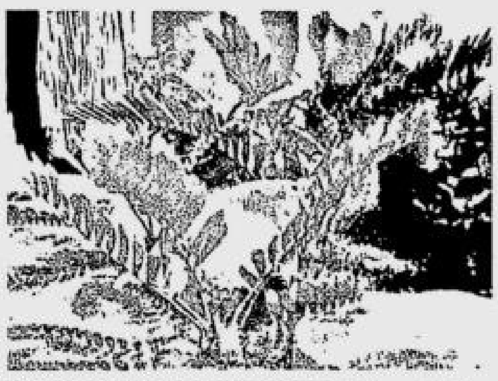
Arranged by stylist, furniture-maker and landscape artist Ernest Santiago, the selection of plants and site furniture presents Filipino creativity. Highlighted with crawling greens and creeping shrubs are flowering foliage and fruit-bearing plants used as ornamentation. It is an example of a Filipino garden, one that is laid out as if in spontaneity but is planned with the veritable touches of commonly used plants spread with visual elements uniquely Filipino.

Molave wood, aged and endowed with the patina of gracious years, is used extensively in the form of the *travieza*, old railroad ties now formed in a linear pattern of

GARDENS/ p.G3



FROM THE *GABI* family known to many Filipinos, this ornamental root plant adds character and giant-sized leaves to the ground cover.



WITH THE STRAIGHTNESS of lines in the background, *cycad* plants of *Zamia* variety declare their bold posture. Boulders define this spot fronting the lanai.

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Gardens of Porta Verde

From page G2

steps and accents. The sloping terrain is made easier to traverse with the use of these planks along the sides. The same wood, known to be very adaptable to moist conditions, is found as landscape furniture elements, provided as benches under a tree, formed as a slab to define a meditative spot and erected as vertical pillars amidst a slew of rocks and pebbles.

Lighting is essential in any garden. In this leisure villa for lease, safety and aesthetics are parallel with concerns on environmental security and delineation of borders. Santiago designed site lighting with a distinctive Asian influence. These garden light bollards are found along the poolside and underneath trees.

Softening the harshness of vertical lines and the embracing the rigidity of concrete, plants and arranged with dried twigs on the walls, blended with bouquets of *anahaw* leaves tracing the lines of the ceiling. With drama and verve as only a seasoned stylist as Santiago can do, Filipino materials merge pleasantly with landscape and are given new life. What used to be everyday items are made up as if in theater, rendering a balance of hardscape (architecture) and softscape (interiors and gardens).

The blooms provide a resonating command to bring the human senses to a silent mode. In sync with the views of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges, the beautiful Lake Lumot that stretches in an expansive, serene view, the landscaped gardens of Porta Verde are a welcome sight to behold. Here in the hills just a couple of hours away from Manila, where clear skies and fresh air are in bounty, nature is in command. Any guest to this vacation villa will be swept to deep relaxation with the verdant gardens responsible for the calming views. Amid lakeside massages in cabanas and strolls under the chilly skies, leisurely days and quiet retreats are welcome gifts for the human spirit.

Porta Verde is a tropical villa for rent located at Lake Lumot, Cavinti, Laguna, South of Caliraya. Amenities and suites are available for a large gathering or for a brief weekend retreat. Call Ampy at 807-8414/8405, or call 842-3671, (0919) 618-7047 and (0916) 477-0574

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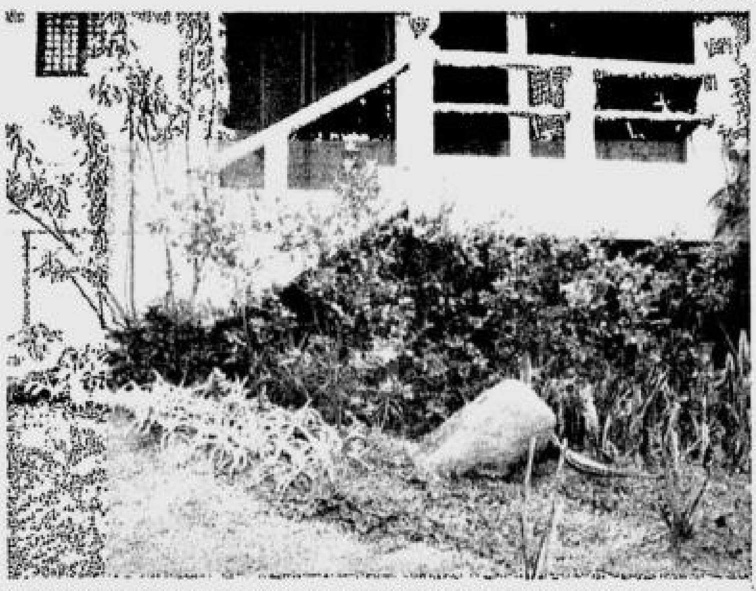
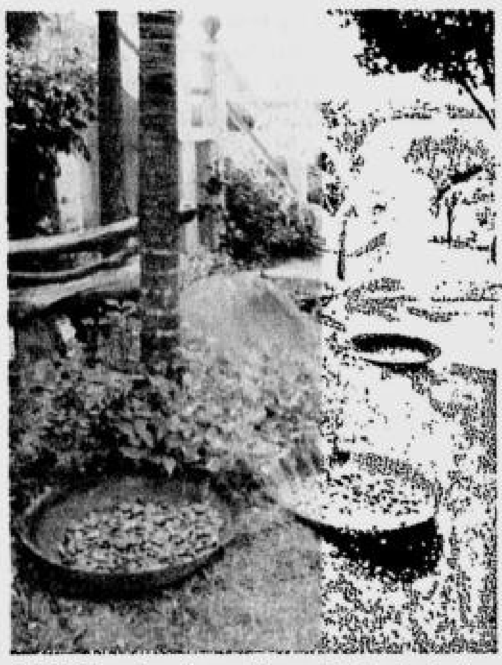


SANSEVERIAS, gloriously green with variegations of yellow, are mixed with creeping peanuts and variegated lilies amid a river boulder. A Song of Korea, known for its graceful leaves, is the tallest among the arrangement of plants.

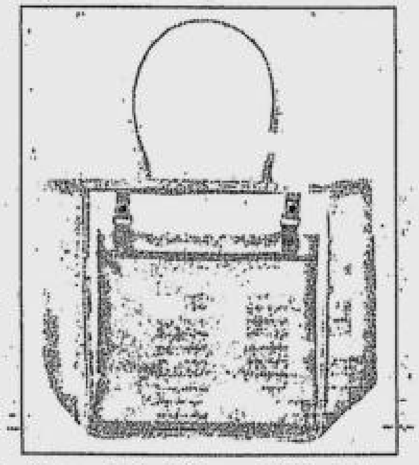
BIRD'S nest ferns, locally known as *dapo*, create a synthesis of grace with a shrub known as scarlet beauty. The *spati phylum* (left) almost disappears with the *fookien* tea shrubs, recognized by gardeners as the *tsaang gubat*. The well-crafted orchestration of forms, patterns and hues of green provide more than just a picturesque corner.

THE VARIEGATED lilies and creeping junipers are soft against a cluster of stone and pebbles.

THE YELLOW bell vines flower all year round, lending Porta Verde with their unending profusion of charm.



A LONE palm, the golden *vietcha*, is in the background as a cast iron cauldron of pebbles sit beside *sampaguita* shrubs. By the side of the lanai, these adornments lend fragrance in the crisp evening air.



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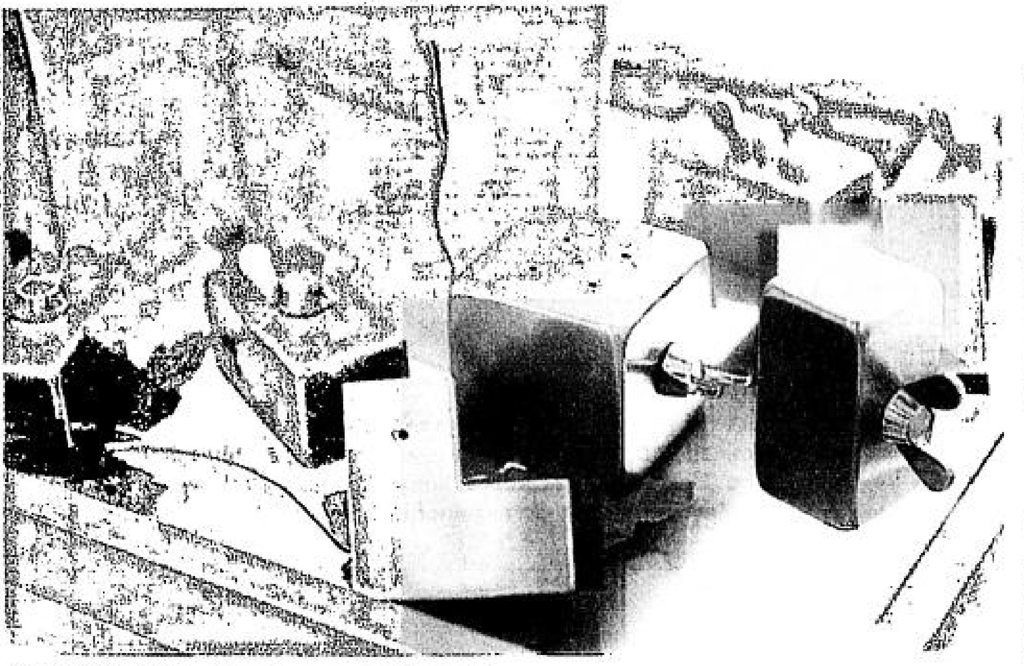

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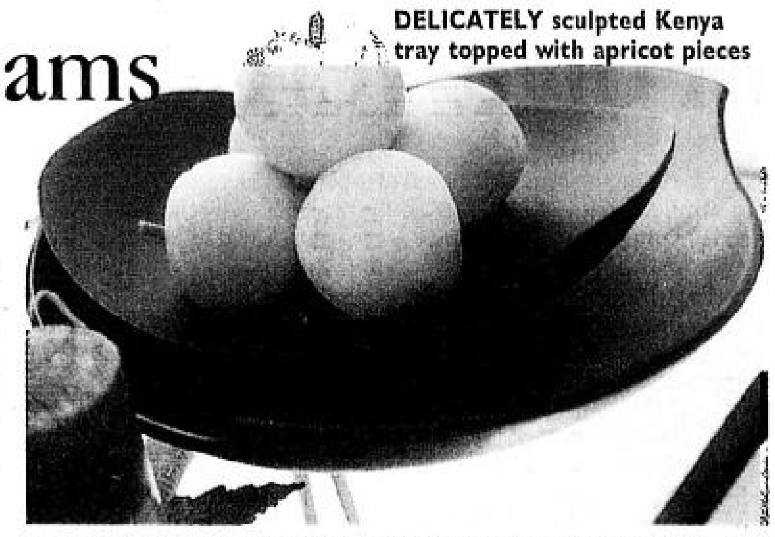

DELICATELY sculpted Kenya tray topped with apricot pieces

THE PERFECT LIFE, a new home lifestyle store at the SM Megamall and part of the Gingersnaps group, sells everything that has to do with living well and living dreams.

The store exudes a feel-good atmosphere, with the graphics, the music, the lighting, even the store's fragrance setting the mood.

A fusion of different design elements that give it a distinct global look, The Perfect Life is not a showroom of the latest design trends, but of style, timelessness and classic beauty. Each product is carefully selected. All pieces are sourced from abroad but are available at amazingly reasonable prices.

The Perfect Life is on the 2/L SM Megamall A.

Win as many toys as you can grab!
OREO
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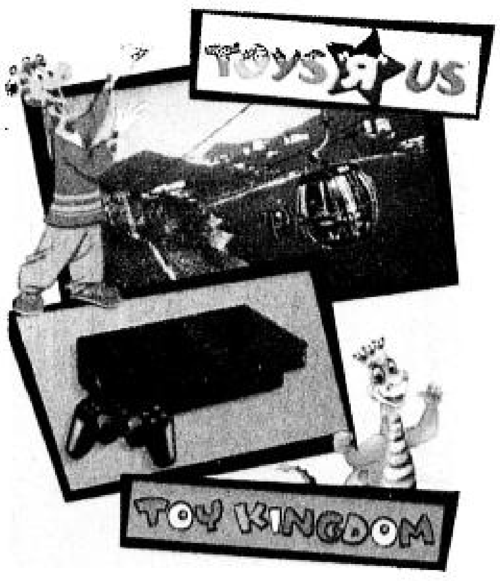

Get the chance to fly to Toys "R" Us Hong Kong and grab all the toys you want!
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HOW TO JOIN:
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  - (1) pack OREO 300g
  - (1) pack OREO Double Stuf 170g
- Participants residing in GMA and Luzon can send their entries to P.O. Box # 4358 Makati Central Post Office 1283 Makati City. Residents of Visayas and Mindanao can send their entries to Mandaue Central Post Office P.O. Box # 71. Participants may also drop their entries in OREO Toy Raid drop boxes in leading supermarkets and Toy Kingdom outlets nationwide.
- The more entries you send, the more chances to win!

MECHANICS :

MINI TOY RAIDS :

A preliminary draw will be held on May 17, 2002 where six (6) winners (3 from GMA/ Luzon and 3 from Visayas/Mindanao) will win a mini toy raid to be held at the activity center of SM Megamall Artium on May 26, 2002.

- A set shall be constructed to replicate the shelves of a toy store
- Each winner shall be allowed sixty (60) seconds to grab as many toys as he/she can from the OREO Toy Raid set.
- At the end of 60 seconds, the child automatically wins all the toys in his OREO cart. Hand carried toys shall not be included in the final count.
- The guardian may accompany the child but is not allowed to assist in the grabbing of toys.
- If the winner does not reside near Metro Manila, Nabisco shall provide airfare and one (1) day lodging for the winning child and one (1) guardian
- Aside from the Mini-toy raids the following prizes are also at stake in the preliminary draws: Five (5) Sony Playstation 2, Twenty-five (25) Toy Kingdom Gift cheques (P5,000 each).

GRAND TOY RAIDS :

Grand draw will be held on July 5, 2002 where two (2) winners will win a 2-minute Toy Raid in TOYS "R" US Hong Kong for the child and P 100,000 pocket money for the guardian who sent the winning entry. Grand Toy Raid shall be held on July 19, 2002 in TOYS "R" US Hong Kong (Ocean Terminal).

- All entries will be included in the Grand Draw.
- Nabisco shall provide airfare and three (3) days, two (2) nights lodging in Hong Kong for each child and one (1) guardian. The child & his/her guardian must have valid passports to qualify.
- The child shall be given an OREO cart to carry all the toys he/she collects. At the end of 2 minutes, the child automatically wins all toys in his cart. Hand-carried toys shall not be included in the final count.
- The guardian may accompany the child but is not allowed to assist in the grabbing of toys.
- All Toy Raid winners will be pre-informed of the dates of the Toy Raids. In the event that the winners are unable to attend the Toy Raids in person, the prize will be forfeited and another winner will be drawn.
- Nabisco, in cooperation with Toys "R" Us, has the right to exclude certain items in the store from the Toy Raid.
- Aside from the Grand Toy Raids the following prizes are also at stake in the grand draw: Five (5) Sony Playstation 2, Twenty-five (25) Toy Kingdom Gift cheques (P5,000 each)
- Consolation prizes must be claimed at Nabisco Philippines office at 8378 Dr. A. Santos Avenue, 1700 Paranaque City on or before August 28, 2002. If the winner does not live in GMA, the prizes will be shipped to them at the cost of Nabisco.
- None of the prizes are convertible to cash.
- All winners shall be drawn in the presence of a BFAD representative.

Promo will run from April 19-June 28, 2002. All entries must be submitted on or before June 28, 2002 to qualify for the Grand Draw.

OREO

Don't be left behind! Send your entries now!

PER BFAD PERMIT NO.0273 SERIES OF 2002.

Know all about 'piña' in fabric festival

Most Filipinos own something made of the *piña* fabric. To many Filipinos, *piña* represents what one writer said was their "fondness for translucent... delicate materials that reveal rather than conceal..."

All *piña* cloth may look the same to the ordinary eye and very rare is the Filipino who knows what *piña bastos* is.

India Legaspi, a *piña* weaver from Aklan for many years who has woven exquisite gowns for some of the Philippines first ladies, describes *piña bastos* as the first fiber extracted from pineapple leaves by stripping it by hand. This makes the fiber rough.

Used in the past for working clothes, the material is now made into sturdy cushions or placemats.

Piña liniwan, the second fiber extracted, is finer and more delicate, thus, considered a "choice fiber." It is the material used for *barongs*, shawls and wedding gowns.

Over the years, various innovative uses of the *piña* cloth have been developed, often involving blending it with other materials. *Piña seda* is 50-percent pineapple fiber and 50-percent silk. *Piña pili* has inlays of cotton or rayon in many motifs like dainty florals or bold geometrics. *Piña abaca* uses *piña bastos* as warp.

Before Aklan became known for the Ati-atihan festival and later for Boracay, considered one of the world's most beautiful beaches, the province in Panay Island was better known as the premier source of *piña*, one of the finest and most delicate fabrics known to man today.

Filipino fashion designer Josie Natori, in a gathering of Asians in New York City, said the most beautiful men and women in that gathering were Filipinos garbed in exquisite *piña* attires. Elsa Klensch, former style reporter of the Cable News Network, once described the *piña* as one of the world's most luxurious special occasion fabrics.

The art of handweaving the sturdy pineapple fiber, which is carefully extracted from tropical pineapple leaves, has been an Aklan tradition for more than 100 years. It is one of the oldest surviving crafts in the Philippines.

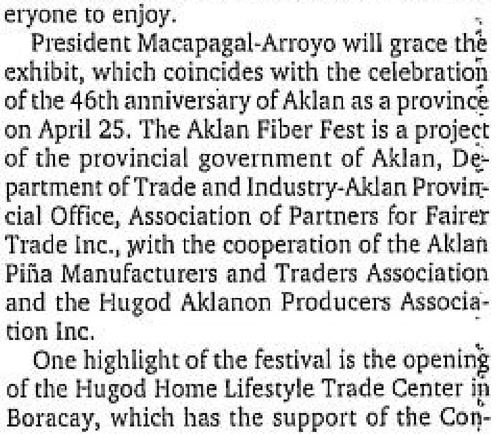
The skill of Aklan's traditional weavers will be among those showcased during the Aklan Fiber Festival on April 22-28 at the ABL Sports Complex, Kalibo, Aklan.

International lifestyle designer PJ Aranador, whose works on design-led crafts have taken him to Africa, India, South America and Thailand, joins the weavers in creating new hand-woven and hand-made products for everyone to enjoy.

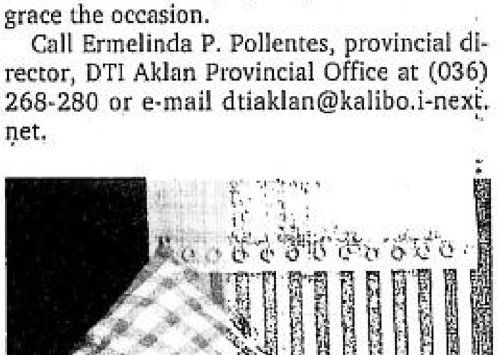
President Macapagal-Arroyo will grace the exhibit, which coincides with the celebration of the 46th anniversary of Aklan as a province on April 25. The Aklan Fiber Fest is a project of the provincial government of Aklan, Department of Trade and Industry-Aklan Provincial Office, Association of Partners for Fairer Trade Inc., with the cooperation of the Aklan Piña Manufacturers and Traders Association and the Hugod Aklanon Producers Association Inc.

One highlight of the festival is the opening of the Hugod Home Lifestyle Trade Center in Boracay, which has the support of the Congressional District Office of Aklan. It will sell world-class Aklan handicraft to Filipinos and foreigners beginning April 27. The University of Santo Tomas Symphony Orchestra will grace the occasion.

Call Ermelinda P. Pollentes, provincial director, DTI Aklan Provincial Office at (036) 268-280 or e-mail dtiaklan@kalibo.i-next.net.



GRAPHIC ENGINEERING. Cushion covers and bold-striped curtain panels in fashionable red handwoven abaca cloth with plaid accent and dainty bamboo rings embellishment. Produced by Kauswagan Development Cooperative (Aklan). Designed by PJ Aranador.



BLACK-AND-WHITE DRAMA. Black handwoven "banana *seda*" cushion covers hand-dyed in organic colors with minimal design. Black and white inlay weaving of abaca and polyester blend is made into a lampshade and cushion cover. Produced by Handicraft of Aklan Multi Purpose Cooperative for the Aklan Fiber Fest.

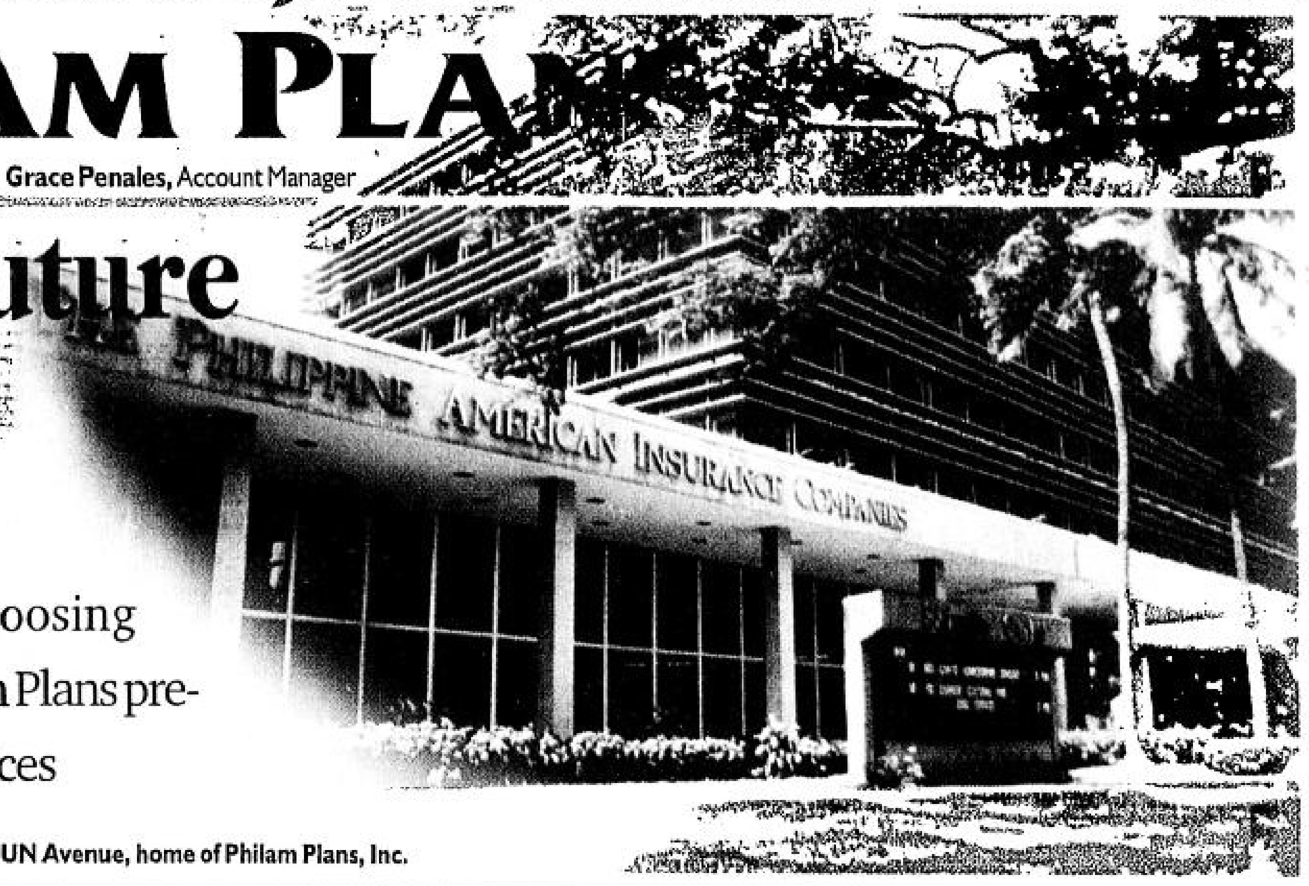
Special **PROJECT**

PHILAM PLANS

Aries Espinosa, Editor sprojects@inquirer.com.ph **Grace Penales**, Account Manager

Building a secured future with Philam Plans

Part of the trick in the pre-need planning is choosing the right company. Philam Plans presents one of the best choices



THE PhilamLife Building in UN Avenue, home of Philam Plans, Inc.

MEET Aling Esther. A widowed housewife now house *lola* who, after caring for a sick husband, now fills her day looking after *apos* and managing her daughter's home. Though she is not wanting of care and love, sometimes she is struck by the realization that she is just an extension of her daughter's family unit. That is when she would start pining for the past and yes, regretting certain decisions she made in life.

Aling Esther started out living a charmed life. She was a content homemaker of a businessman and their six children in a first-class subdivision in the suburbs. There was no need for her to work; her husband earned more than enough for them to be able to send their kids to exclusive schools. From the robust earnings of her husband, they were able to afford living in the lap of luxury in the present. And that was their worst mistake.

When her husband suffered from a stroke, Aling Esther found herself suddenly the breadwinner of the family. She knew nothing; after college she had immediately gotten married and tended home for her groom. Now she had to work to feed a whole family, buy medication for a sick husband and pay the bills. What was worse was that there were no more savings in the bank. Much of their money was spent splurging on luxuries. And perhaps the best form of investment they had made in their whole marriage was a memorial plan with a fledgling pre-need company, which made things somewhat easier when her husband finally succumbed to the afterlife.

Aling Esther remembers waging an everyday battle to be able to send her children to school. They eventually graduated from college but not without some compromises; her eldest was not able to pursue his dream to become a doctor because he had to help her feed the family. Now, her children are all married. She is living with her eldest. Who was once a modest social butterfly is now a stay-at-home *lola*, taking care of grandchildren and making sure her daughter's house and home life is in order. Anything to earn her keep as an extension member of the family. There is not much to look forward to in the future. It will be wherever and whatever her daughter takes and plans for her. The fact that she's dependent of her own child in this way is a source of embarrassment for her.

What makes this story tragic is that Aling Esther had the choice to create a good future for herself. But lacking of foresight and the will to plan for tomorrow, she failed in her desire to give her family or herself a good life. And so she joins the legions of Filipinos who now face life with hardship and uncertainty. According to statistics, out of a hundred Filipino citizens aged 65 and above, 90 depend on their children, 8 are working after retirement, while only two retire in comfort.

Rewind to Aling Esther's happier days. Should Aling Esther have thought about the future, she would have planned for it. And she would inevitably find out that the best form of planning is pre-need planning.

Pre-need planning with a stable company

Pre-need planning is about facing the future with adequate financial resources. With pre-need plans, no more parent would need to worry about the spiraling cost of education. No more senior Filipino would have to give up their independence during old age. Most of all, there would be no more family who would face their times of bereavement with chaos and confusion.

But part of the trick in pre-need planning is choosing a good company to buy your plans from. A pension, education or memorial plan brought from an unstable company is like signing a contract with water. Should the company go bankrupt and close down, how else would you avail of the benefits from your plan?

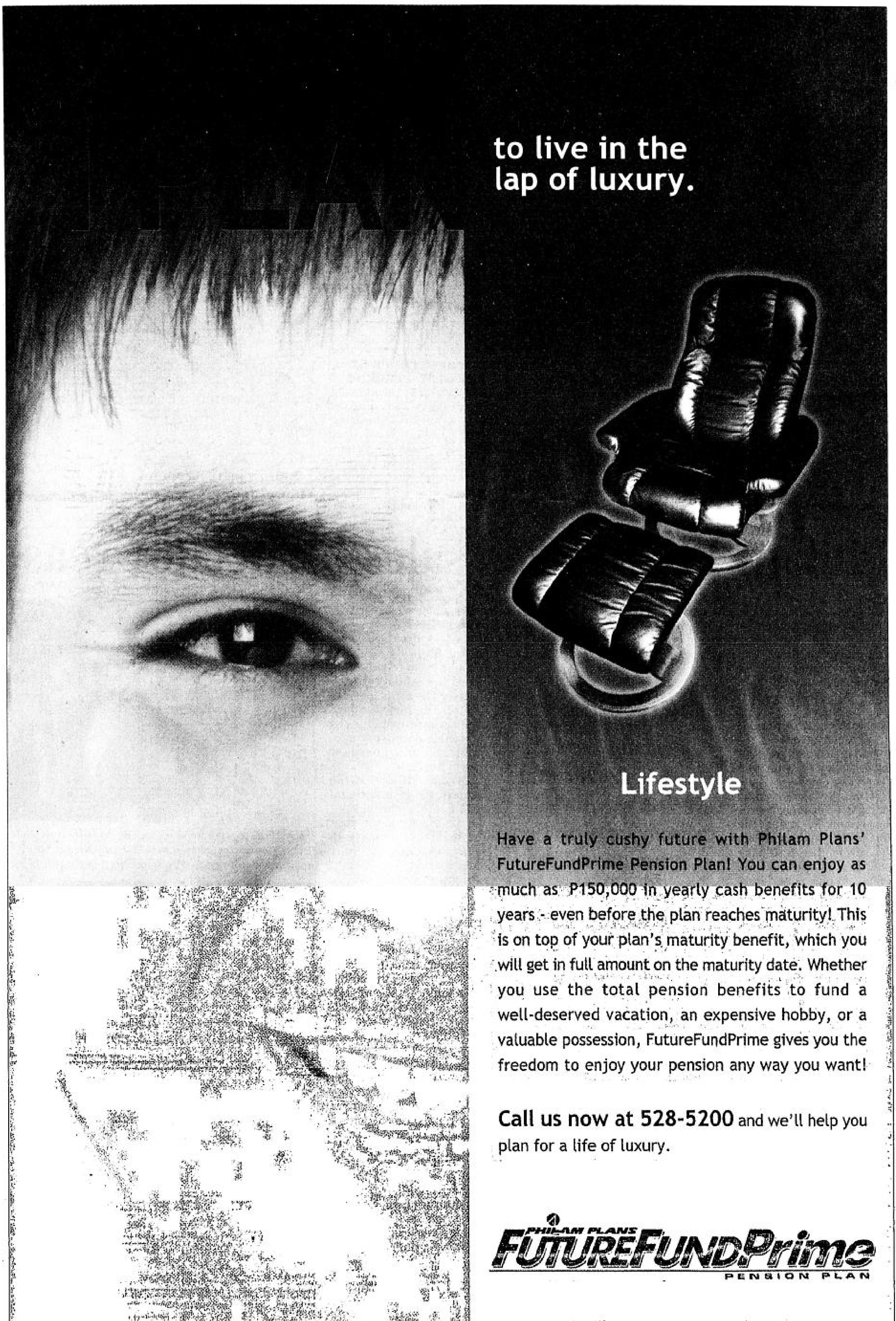
So to be able to invest in your future, you must look at the giants in the industry whom you can count on to deliver. One such company is Philam Plans Inc. The good thing about this company is that it enjoys solid financial backing from the American International Group and Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife). This means that in the remote possibility that Philam Plans falls on hard times, it can count on its patrician lineage for strength.

AIG is one of the world's most stable insurance and financial services organizations. Holding the record in industry profitability, AIG consistently earns the highest marks from international rating agencies and was also voted the most admired corporation in America.

Philamlife, meanwhile, is the country's leader in the life insurance business. More than 50 years in the business, Philamlife is a recognized name in the field of life insurance.

Only on its 13th year in the business, Philam Plans, Inc. is proudly on the 2nd leading position among all pre-need companies. The company's 13-year history is a

BUILDING/H2



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Have a truly cushy future with Philam Plans' FutureFundPrime Pension Plan! You can enjoy as much as P150,000 in yearly cash benefits for 10 years - even before the plan reaches maturity! This is on top of your plan's maturity benefit, which you will get in full amount on the maturity date. Whether you use the total pension benefits to fund a well-deserved vacation, an expensive hobby, or a valuable possession, FutureFundPrime gives you the freedom to enjoy your pension any way you want!

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one with the filipino family

PHILAM PLANS

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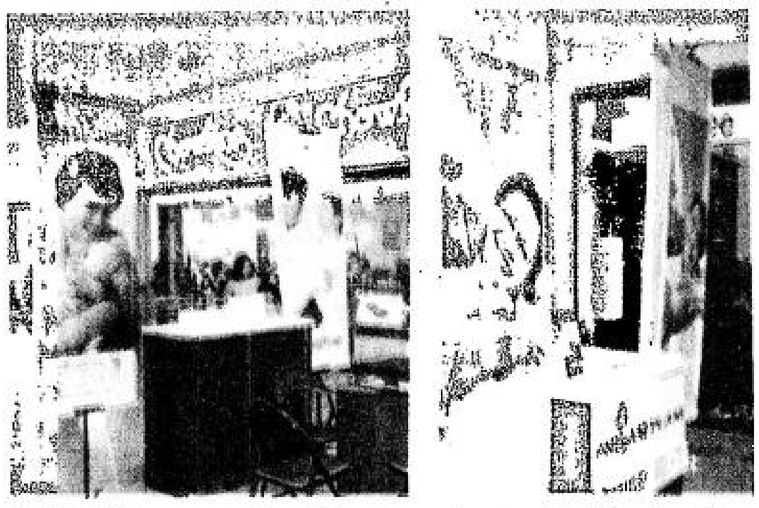
Building a secured future with Philam Plans

From page H1

bulky portfolio of triumphs.

From the time it was incorporated on December 26, 1988 and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on April 19, 1989, Philam Plans was all ready to conquer its share of the pre-need market. Not surprisingly that it was able to achieve a phenomenal growth on its second year, which immediately catapulted it to the No. 4 position among pre-need industry giants. By 1992, it was already on its P699-million in gross sales and in 1994, gross sales reached P1.7 billion.

By 1995, Philam Plans' gross sales hit an all-time high of P3.1 Billion. By this time, it was apparent to all that the company was already headed for leadership. Branches nationwide had reached 60 to make itself accessible to more Filipinos. From its 264 planholders in 1989, it by then had 196,541. And from the initial P400,000, its trust funds amounted to P360 million, reflecting the pre-need company's capability to meet future obligations with its planholders.



PHILAM Plans puts up kiosks in major malls not only in Metro Manila but also in the provinces to be more accessible to its customers

The succeeding years saw the young company scoring innumerable milestones and great achievements. It had safely landed a spot among the top 5 giants in the industry. Year 2002 finds Philam Plans as triumphant as ever. It leads in pension plan sales. It maintains the number two position in both education and life plan sales.

The young pre-need company had also reached a stunning P1 billion in first year payment in 2001. It is a feat unmatched by any other pre-need company in only its 13th year of operation. But what adds to the company's financial success last year is the fact that it was achieved despite many challenges, the gravest of which are the less-than-ideal economic conditions and the infamous 9/11 terrorist attacks.

This ability to use difficult situations to its advantage is already part of Philam Plans' culture. In fact, Philam Plans has already proven before that in times of uncertainty it is able to keep its regal head high above water. It has maintained a strong showing through the oil crisis in 1991, the rice shortage in 1995, the Asian financial crisis in 1999 and the continuing peso devaluation.

Philam Plans Success Strategy: Customer Satisfaction

Of all companies in the pre-need industry today, perhaps none is as committed to achieving customer service as Philam Plans. In fact, Philam Plans' commitment to its customers is one of the reasons why it has, so far, attained success. Products are constantly innovated to respond to the changing needs of the market. Employees and sales associates go through intensive training to become the most professional in the business. Productivity programs are designed and implemented to help meet obligations to clients.

Towards this end, the company's management team has put in place systems and programs well supported by its manpower both in the offices and on field. A human resource development program gives the necessary skills and competence to both employee and sales force. Employees receive trainings in customer service, product knowledge, business ethics, computer competence enhancement, among others. Sales associates attend seminars on the development of sales management skills. Just last year, the company produced interactive training materials in CD format which the sales people could access and study at their own pace and leisure. This provides them with information needed in servicing their clients.

Even management is not spared in this pursuit for excellence. In 1997, Philam Plans' joined the Life Office Management Association (Loma), an international association of some 1,000 life/health insurance and financial services companies. Through Loma, managers and professional staff are able to attend education programs that make them the most competitive in the field.

Last year also saw Philam Plans acing its ISO 9001:2000 certification. With this certification, Philam Plans becomes one of the less than 30 companies passing quality standards renowned and recognized worldwide. It can be remembered that Philam Plans became the first pre-need company to ace the ISO 9002:1994 version in 1998, which assured its customers nationwide of its quality products and services. And with its transition to ISO 9001:2000, customers are further assured of even higher standards of excellence.

WITH its ISO 9001:2000 certification, Philam Plan's growing number of customers are further assured of its commitment to excellence. Here, David Horlock of SGS Philippines awards the ISO certificate to Philam Plans top officials (from right), Jose Cuisia, Jr., chairman of the board; Eliseo Dizon, Jr., president and CEO; Reynaldo Gatcheco, Jr., senior vice president for operations; and Rommel Validad, assistant vice president for quality assurance.

An integral part of Philam Plans' quest for improving work efficiency is its productivity-enhancement programs. The company subscribes to programs that promote good housekeeping and employee involvement in making policies. Also vital to Philam Plans' productivity movement is the Central Employee Committee, which fosters communication and better understanding between labor and management.

To put all these programs into place and to further upgrade its service, Philam Plans has adopted a sophisticated information and systems technology. Majority of Philam Plans offices are now online, allowing the decentralization of needed services for the customers' convenience.

A Growing Distribution Network

Part of meeting customer needs is improving accessibility. Philam Plans now boasts of 68 offices, with 13 regional offices and 55 branches nationwide. Overcoming geographical barriers, it has also expanded to capture foreign territories, selling to overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Macau, Brunei, Saipan, Taiwan, Greece, Qatar, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Its ever growing number of sales force now totals 23,497, with 19,029 sales counselors, 3,681 unit managers, 176 district managers and 611 agency managers. Efforts of this traditional sales force are complemented by Philam Plans' growing lineup of brokers, who market the company's products using their own marketing styles and techniques. Thus we see companies like International Marketing Group and Taishan contributing significant shares to Philam Plans' sales production.

In response to the growing popularity of commercial centers, Philam Plans also set up satellite offices or kiosks in malls. For Philam Plans' growing number of planholders, this means greater convenience. But for the dynamic company it means the fulfillment of a long-held commitment to customers.

'Sama-sama, Bidang-Bida' on 13th Year

This year, Philam Plans is observing its 13th anniversary on April 19, 2002 with celebrations at the Philamlife Theater in UN Avenue. A weeklong exhibit features the company's achievements, products and services. A program gives honor to the company's loyal 5- and 10-year service awardees. While a Customer Service Week celebration stresses the value Philam Plans places on its clients.

Employees, sales associates and affiliate members are expected to celebrate together as the company looks back with fondness for the past and resolution to win for the future. And to lend emphasis to the company's coming together as one family is its rallying cry for 2002: "Sama-sama, Bidang-bida!"

Philam Plans gives sales associates reason to smile

THE PHILAM Plans sales counselor starts his day early. By six in the morning, he is already on the road. He is on his way to meet a client, a busy businessman in Bulacan with whom he will discuss the benefits of the Enterprise Investment Plan. After their breakfast meeting, he has an important appointment with the Human Resource manager of a company in Makati to offer the company's FutureFund Plan for its employees.

He has just enough time for lunch till he is headed for Parañaque to offer the Philam Gold Education Plan to a new mother. His timing is important because he knows that his clients' and her baby's siesta time is sacred. Traffic permitting, he intends to pass by Philam Plans' Alabang office to get information about some enhancements in the company's pension line. To be able to serve his clients well, he keeps himself updated on any changes in the company's product offerings.

> *Philam Plans' sales associates are probably the most cared for in the business. As the company's most treasured assets, they receive top-of-the line benefits and compensation unmatched by any other in the pre-need industry*

Just like yours and mine's the Philam Plans sales counselor's day has a tendency to be rough. Traffic, pollution in the metro, and rude clients are just some of the things he encounters everyday. But there are two things that set him apart from the rest of us: the smile on his face and the noticeable spring to his step.

What makes the Philam Plans counselor appear so content?

Philam Plans' sales associates are probably the most cared for in the business. As the company's most treasured assets, they receive top-of-the line benefits and compensation unmatched by any other in the pre-need industry.

Giving its business partners the best is a conscious effort on the part of Philam Plans. The company's market research team coordinates with its agency services department to continuously look out for its people's best interests. The result is an attractive agency benefits package that is constantly being updated to respond to the sales associates' changing and growing needs.

Philam Plans' sales associates receive a group insurance and health coverage. The benefits are undeniably the best, based on research among the top 5 pre-need companies in the industry. The company is also the only one to offer its sales force an accident and health coverage, a group medical/health insurance program that answers for any hospitalization or medical expenses incurred from accident and disability.

There are car loan and housing loan facilities to enable a sales associate the necessary mobility and prestige expected of a Philam Plans sales associate. There are business equipment loan facilities meant to equip a sales associate with the necessary tools needed in the business. Agency leaders are provided business expansion financing which will enable them to put up offices in areas not currently serviced by a Philam Plans office. The same business loan can provide for the purchase of office condominium units for their agency operations.

As an affiliate of the American International Group (AIG), Philam Plans is also able to offer its sales associates a scholarship grant through the Starr Foundation Scholarship Program. Any sales associate's dependent child aged 23 years and below may avail of this scholarship.

Added to these benefits are innumerable perks and rewards given through the company's lineup of contests and drives. Every year, the company's top sales associates eagerly await the Lakbayan celebrations and Globetrotters program. Lakbayan is Philam Plans' treat for the company's sales producers, where they are taken to tourist destinations within the country and billeted in resorts and first-class hotels for free. During the event, delegates attend an Annual Awards ceremony and Business Conference. There is also a Teambuilding Activity and a Fellowship Night where sales associates participate in lavish production numbers.

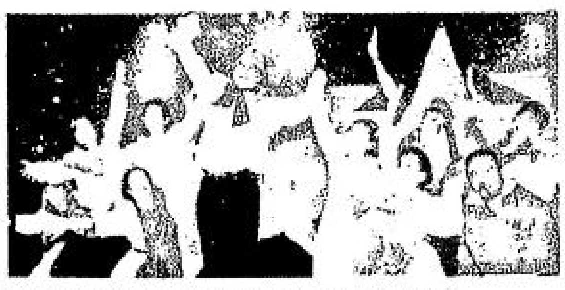
In the past, Philam Plans has brought its people to Shangri-La Mactan, Plantation Bay, Cebu and The Pearl Farm in Davao. Early this year, they just experienced first-class accommodations in the Westin Philippine Plaza in Manila. Next year, the premier pre-need company will bring its top producers to Hong Kong!

Philam Plans' Globetrotters program is just as awaited. Under this program, top sales producers are likewise treated to free airfare and hotel accommodations in a foreign destination. The company's jetsetters have been to Gold Coast in Australia, Beijing, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. This year, they are bound for Macau and Spain.

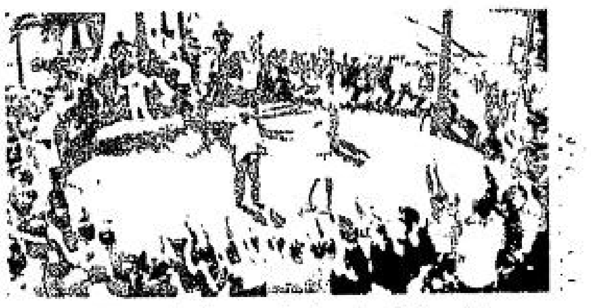
What's best about both Lakbayan and Globetrotters is that sales associates are able to bring along their loved ones if their sales production permits multiple qualification, making these incentive treats the ideal vacation for their families.

Indeed, Philam Plans' benefits for its sales associates make one big attractive package. But there is one more thing that makes being a Philam Plans sales counselor truly worthwhile—the knowledge that one is able to help fellow Filipinos plan for their future.

PHILAM Plans top sales producers are feted during the Annual Awards celebration, where they get to socialize with company top officials president and CEO Eliseo Dizon Jr., board chair Jose Cuisia, Jr., and Philamlife executive vice president and chief agency officer Pepot Sto. Domingo, 4th, 7th and 9th from left, respectively



PART of the fun of Philam Plans Lakbayan is participating in the lavish production numbers during Fellowship Night



ANOTHER awaited event during the Philam Plans Lakbayan is the Teambuilding Activity

PHILAM Plans' top sales producers get to join the Globetrotters Program, where they are treated to an all-expense-paid trip to different tourist destinations abroad

PHILAM Plans Lakbayan delegates get an ultimate vacation with their families and colleagues in a popular tourist spot

Philam Plans' product portfolio

Philam Plans boasts of a variety of products to suit the needs of every Filipino. Their outstanding feature is their innovativeness, which enables them to meet the growing requirements of their customers.

Just recently in fact the leading pre-need company in pension plan sales launched three variants of its pension product. These variants were designed to respond to the Filipino consumers' growing concern to provide a stable future for their families especially in the light of recent volatile events.

FutureFund. This product is an affordable basic retirement package that provides generous benefits for a minimum investment. It has nine pension programs to choose from with payment terms varying from two, five, seven and ten years and maturity periods of seven, ten, fifteen and twenty years. A thousand pesos maturity benefit can cost as low as P222.57. On the other hand, a ten years to pay, fifteen years to mature program with a P50,000 maturity benefit translates to only P10.50 a day.

FutureFund also provides basic insurance coverage such as credit life, waiver of payment upon total and permanent disability and accidental death and dismemberment (ADD) benefit during the paying period. This is equivalent to 100% to 200% of the maturity benefit depending on the injury caused by the accident. Upon maturity, the planholder can opt to enroll the plan proceeds in the company's Benefits Management Service and allow the cash to further increase in value. FutureFund is aimed at the "no frills" middle-aged married individual with modest earnings as an employee or from a business and whose paramount concern is being financially self-sufficient upon retirement. FutureFund is available on a "no insurance" basis only.

FutureFundPlus. This is a more comprehensive retirement plan that responds to the needs of the progressive, sophisticated middle class who aspires to maintain the standard of living he or she is accustomed to even in retirement. It offers higher value plans for the same number of paying and maturity period as the FutureFund. FutureFundPlus has the same insurance features as FutureFund. Its ADD benefit however, extends until the end of the plan's maturity period.

In addition to these is a term insurance coverage that provides 100% of the maturity benefit. In the event that a planholder passes away from an accident, the assigned beneficiary will receive 200% of the value of the maturity benefit. Upon plan maturity the beneficiary still collects the total value of the plan. If death is due to natural causes, the term insurance benefit applies. The planholder may also choose to enroll the plan funds in the Benefits Management Service if he sees fit.

FutureFundPrime. This brand is Philam Plans' answer to the growing clamor for a savings program that provides funds for big-ticket purchases or major expenses in the present time or near future and retirement expenses in the decades ahead. The newest addition to the company's product portfolio, FutureFundPrime provides yearly cash benefits aside from a pension when the plan matures. For urgent fund requirements, a customer can avail of the five years to pay, fifteen years to mature program and immediately receive cash benefits after paying the plan. For less pressing needs, other programs offer cash benefits on the plan's tenth year. This ready money is an amount equal to 15% of the maturity benefit.

> *Just recently, in fact, the leading pre-need company in pension plan sales launched three variants of its pension product*

FutureFundPrime offers three pension programs payable in five and ten years with maturity period of fifteen and twenty years and the same insurance coverage as FutureFundPlus. Its target market is the sociable, upwardly mobile professionals aged 20 to 30 and enjoys a trendy, high-end lifestyle. Since retirement years are far off in the horizon, yuppies prefer a savings program that addresses both short and long-term financial needs. The company's Benefits Management Services (BMS) is an option open to this product's planholders. The BMS is a fund management facility that provides a certain interest rate, allowing your cash to grow several folds over. FutureFundPrime is available on a "no insurance" basis.

Wedding Package. This package allows planholders not just to prepare for weddings but also for 7th birthdays, debuts and wedding anniversaries. The plan actually makes an ideal gift for loved ones.

Enterprise Investment Plan. This program is designed for aspiring enterpreneurs. It provides funds for business capital, expansion, and even retirement.

Gold Education Plan. The company's educational plan is a comprehensive program that responds to a child's scholastic needs for elementary, high school and up to four- or five-year college. The plan is payable in 5 years on an annual, semi-annual, quarterly or monthly basis. Upon plan maturity, the benefits are given directly to the planholder so he may have full control over the use of the funds. An outstanding feature of this plan is a graduation gift; given in an amount equivalent to the pre-need price upon the company's completion of paying the benefits. This feature practically means sending a child to school with no cost at all.

Last year the company also added the plan's "No nominee feature." With this modification, the planholder may register a nominee for a no-nominee plan anytime before availment of the education benefits.

Ultima Life Plan. The company's life product eliminates the usual hassles and confusions associated with preparing for a departed loved one's funeral. Benefits from the plan pay for funeral expenses and may be used to pay for arrangements with memorial parks or crematorium.

The Ultima Life Plan boasts of many unique features. First, is the Return of Payment feature. One should only be alive on the 15th plan anniversary and the Pre-Need Price of the purchased plan is completely returned, making the investment cost-free!

Another advantage is the guaranteed annual increment of 10% to the initial memorial service benefit bought. By the time the plan is used, the amount to be used for the services would have grown several times more.

Should the inevitable come to the planholder before age 75, his beneficiary will receive a term insurance benefit equal to the initial memorial service benefit. Should this happen until the 15th year of the plan but before age 75, Philam Plans gives the beneficiary an additional term insurance equal to all the plan payments made. Should death happen after age 75, a family assistance fund equal to the initial memorial service benefit will be given.

An added service which comes with the Ultima Life Plan is the help extended by the company's Family Assistance Officers. On call 24-hours a day, they can professionally handle every detail of the memorial service—giving the bereaved family peace of mind.

MOMS need not worry about their child's future with the Philam Gold Education Plan

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Comes with a free doctor consultation.
For 5 to 70 years old.
Suggested Retail Price: P415

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For 5 to 70 years old.
Suggested Retail Price: P175

DoctorCare
5 doctor consultations in Philam Care clinics in Metro Manila– Manila, Quezon City, Ortigas, Las Piñas and Makati.
Suggested Retail Price: P580

PhysiCare
Annual physical examination.
It includes evaluation of personal medical history, chest X-ray, physical examination, complete blood count (CBC), urinalysis and stool examination.
Suggested Retail Price: P550

SureCare
Life insurance with P10,000 coverage for 18-65 years old.
Suggested Retail Price: P265

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Only AIG Credit Cards offers the new and unique Value Grocer that gives AIG Cardholders a free Half Gallon of Nestlé Ice Cream Classic Flavor — redeemable at any Rustan Supermarket — for any single or accumulated supermarket purchase worth P5,000.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0942 Series of 2002. Promo until June 30, 2002

We've really got you covered — from free dental treatments that include cleaning, simple tooth extractions and fillings, to free medical benefits like check-ups, x-rays and up to P5,000 hospitalization reimbursements. All these benefits are transferable within your family.

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See flyers for details.

- Get an AIG Gold Card Free for the first year and receive a Special Welcome Gift!
  Simply use your AIG Gold Card and make a single or accumulated purchase of P3,000 within the first month from date of activation to get your FREE TRAVEL BAG!
  Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0710 Series of 2002. Promo runs March 08 - June 30, 2002

- 1.6% Installment Rate Promo (for 12 months installment term)
  Apply now and readily avail of as low as 1.6% monthly interest rate when you transfer the balance from other credit cards to your AIG Credit Card. Availment of Balance Transfer Promo is subject to the approval of the AIG Credit Card application.
  Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0696 Series of 2002. Promo runs March 08 - July 31, 2002

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- PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT — Mutual Fund Investment
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- AIG Credit Card Company Philippines, Inc. — Credit Cards